

Hafa Adai!

IPI's contractor says lawsuit by 7 workers is frivolous. **PAGE 2**

More than 20 killed in Papua New Guinea tribal violence. **PAGE 11**

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Discrepancy in 2 PWS muddles CW petitions

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **USCIS: Prevailing wage concerns are for USDOL**

Confusion surrounding the two prevailing wage surveys for the CNMI continues to confound many private companies in the CNMI, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services insist-

ing yesterday that anything wage-related is basically up the U.S. Department of Labor's alley.

Questions about the matter addressed to USCIS representatives on-island remain unanswered as of publication. USCIS clarified with *Saipan Tribune* that the question of which prevailing wage survey, or PWS, will be used for the application of a prevailing wage determi-

See **DISCREPANCY** on **Page 4**

Survey: Over 1,000 displaced

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A recent report that found a combination of individuals who are in displaced households or living in substandard and non-standard homes—according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definitions—found a total of 1,018 sheltered and unsheltered persons on Saipan alone.

According to the Point-In-Time data, there is a total of 290 households comprising 1,018 individuals that are considered displaced or living non-standard households. Of that number, 688 are a combination of adults and adult children,

See **SURVEY** on **Page 4**



Cement statues representing Easter Islands *moais* are among the added attraction at the Saipan World Resort's waterpark, called Wave Jungle, which re-opened to the public last Tuesday after undergoing a massive facelift after Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation last October.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



SWR's Wave Jungle re-opens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pool waves are now much higher and more *moai* statues, also known as Easter Island statues or heads, have been erected. These are just a few of the many attractions that have been installed at Saipan World Resort's watery playground called the Wave Jungle, which had a soft re-opening last Tuesday after undergoing more than eight

» **Pool waves now much higher, lots of Easter Island heads**

months of renovations to repair the damage wrought by Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year.

At this time, though, only some parts of the Wave Jungle are open to the public. Areas that have been re-opened

See **SWR** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

Team Guam took home gold awards at the Australian International Music Festival in Sydney.

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NATION

A storm swamped New Orleans and concerns grew that even worse weather was on the way.

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LIFE & STYLE

Joey Chestnut ate 71 wieners to secure his title at the July Fourth hotdog eating contest.

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Local

IPI's contractor says lawsuit by seven workers is frivolous

The lawsuit of seven construction workers against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and its contractor and a subcontractor was filed in bad faith and is frivolous, according to the contractor.

Because of this, MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., through counsel Robert T. Torres, intends to seek reimbursement from the plaintiffs, including attorney's fees, for expenses incurred in defending itself. Torres said MCC acted in good faith and believes that its actions complied with the law.

The plaintiffs are suing IPI, MCC, and MCC's subcontractor Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC for

the alleged injuries they suffered during accidents at IPI's casino/resort project worksite.

Torres said MCC is not liable for the damages being sought by the plaintiffs because, if anyone engaged in unlawful conduct, it was done without MCC's knowledge.

Torres said one or more of the plaintiffs' claims in the lawsuit are "barred, or that recovery for damages should be reduced pursuant to the doctrine of avoidable consequences."

Torres said the plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part because their alleged injuries were not caused by MCC tolerating any unlawful practice. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Preliminary injunction concludes, order to follow

The hearing for a preliminary injunction that started last Monday concluded yesterday but Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo announced that his decision to produce an order after 10 days still stands.

The preliminary injunction hearing that dragged on for three consecutive days concluded yesterday with both parties presenting closing statements and reiterating their initial arguments and ultimately stating that all they want is clarity from the court.

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC lawyer Viola Alepuyo said the most important message they want to convey is that judicial clarity is needed.

"The most important message we wanted to convey was that we need to be provided with clarity, clarity so we know what we're doing. Even a simple thing such as an Open Government Act can be confusing. These are complex

New Philippine passports being released

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, is releasing passports to those who renewed their passport last May 22, 23, and 24, 2019. You can pick up the new passports at the Finasisu Terraces, Bldg. D, second floor, at the

issues because these deal with constitutions and we just need to make sure that everyone, not just IPI, follows the law but, before we can follow the law, we need to know that the law is [clear]," she said.

Assistant attorney general Michael Ernest, who is representing the Commonwealth Casino Commission, said that whatever clarity the court can provide regarding the matter will be appreciated.

He said the judge's decision on the law will be future investors' first impression of the Commonwealth.

"Like the court said... whatever decision he makes, it's going to be the first statement of the law in the Commonwealth, so it's probably going to be reviewed closely by each side and we're just grateful for the clarity we hope the court's order will provide. We look forward to seeing his order," he said.

Govendo stated before the top of the Mini-Mart, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm breaktime).

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end of the preliminary injunction hearing that there is room for compromise if both CCC and IPI can sit down and discuss it because tax information is no longer the only issue being argued, but other information included in

the audited financial statements that was not divulged in court.

"This is complicated stuff and this court knows that it's going beyond this court, one way or another. I cannot please both sides. I think there

is some room for compromise. Give that some consideration if you will and, if not, I will make a decision based on what is in front of me," he said.





Govendo will be releasing his order on the matter on July 19

before the business day ends.




IPI filed for a preliminary injunction last week to prohibit CCC from releasing information in their audited financial reports that they believe is confidential. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

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'Tax refunds to be released when funding becomes available'

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This year's tax refunds will be released as soon as local funding is identified, according to the CNMI Department of Finance.

Finance Secretary David Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* in an earlier interview that several newly implemented tax reforms caused some

software technical issues that delayed the release of some tax refunds.

Atalig added yesterday that tax refund checks would be released "as local funding are identified" and that the department is still "finalizing our batches to ensure there are no errors."

"[I am] asking for the patience and understanding of all our CNMI taxpayers, as

the administration is doing its best to secure funding for the release of all tax rebates and refunds. It is a priority to get these funds into the hands of families so that it can assist them in their financial needs, as we are still all recovering from Super Typhoon Yutu," he said in a statement to *Saipan Tribune*.

Atalig previously noted that tax refunds and rebates

are obtained solely from local funding while child tax rebates are obtained from federal funding.

This year's total tax rebate and refunds amount to nearly \$21 million, \$11 million of which are child tax rebates. Last year, there were a total of \$26 million in total tax rebate and refunds, with over \$8 million in child tax rebates.

"People got more tax credits," he said, referring to the newly implemented tax reforms when U.S. President Donald J. Trump signed last Dec. 22, 2017, the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act."

According to Atalig, the higher tax credits came with the tradeoff of lesser taxes being taken off for individuals throughout the year.

Because of this, "...they would be getting less refunds than expected."

Atalig used a constant annual tax refund of \$1,000 as an example. "You'd probably get around \$500 to \$600 this year," he said.

Last July 2, 2019, the Fi-

nance Department started releasing \$7 million in child tax rebates. The remaining tax rebates would be released in two batches, according to Atalig.

He noted Finance is expecting a second batch of child tax rebates and hopes to receive the funds from the Internal Revenue Service within the next couple of weeks.

"Once we have the authorization to drawdown these funds, we will be releasing the next batch of child tax rebates in the amount of over \$1.6 million, [with the] third batch of about \$2.7 million shortly after," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

» Total of nearly \$21M in tax refunds and child tax rebates

Co-defendant in Rota mayor case seeks evidence

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the co-defendants in the case involving Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig asked the CNMI Superior Court last week to compel the government to produce material that she may use at the jury trial in January 2020.

Vanessa Charfauros, Rota Department of Public Works resident director and one of Atalig's co-defendant in the case, filed a motion to compel discovery for material that could be used in her defense during the jury trial.

The material Charfauros requested, through her lawyer, Office of the Public Defender's Heather Zona, include criminal record and legal status of witnesses, Henthorn material including Internal

Affairs records and any exculpatory/impeachment information concerning law enforcement involved in the investigation of the case, all field notes and briefing notes of law enforcement concerning the investigation of the case, and material concerning performance goals and awards for law enforcement involved in the case.

According to the motion, Zona argues that Charfauros is entitled to the material requested because it is considered Brady and Henthorn materials and would ultimately aid in her defense.

"The prosecution suggests defendant is seeking access to all personnel records. This is untrue. [Charfauros] seeks

those materials which bear on the credibility of government witnesses, and which would be impeaching. Moreover, there is no question such material would aid in Ms. Charfauros' defense."

Zona further stated that the prosecution is obligated to comply and produce the material.

Charfauros also requested for an evidentiary hearing to discuss the requested material.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja said last week that he would take the motion into advisement.

All the defendants, including Charfauros and Atalig, were charged with theft and misconduct in public office

by the OAG for allegedly attending a Republican campaign rally in Guam in June 2018 in the guise of a legitimate government trip and taking government funds and salary compensation.

Charfauros and Atalig's co-defendants are Department of Labor Rota resident director Dexter Apatang, Department of Commerce Rota resident director Dean Manglona, Department of Finance Rota resident director Josepha Manglona, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Rota resident director Dennis Mendiola, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Rota resident director Magdalena Mesngon, and former Department of Public Safety Rota resident director Eusebio Manglona.



Atalig

SURVEY

From Page 1

and 330 children.

The CNMI Homeless Prevention Coalition under the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the Division of Youth Services handed out a total of 564 questionnaires about these standards during the third annual count in January.

Despite the delays caused by Super Typhoon Yutu last October, the coalition was able to get the count done in time and was able to prepare

the count as thoroughly as possible by differentiating the displaced households, substandard households, and non-standard households.

According to the count, a total of 151 households composed of 769 individuals were considered living in substandard homes by HUD standards. Of that number, 511 are a combination of adults and adult children and 258 are children.

The coalition has already submitted the data to HUD as part of the requirements to avail of the Continuum Care Grant that will address this

matter. The coalition also received the Continuum Care Planning Grant to help with their planning process for this project.

The amount of responses to the survey questionnaires has increased in the past two years, with 2019 seeing a total of 500 valid responses.

Homeless Prevention Coalition's chair Vivian Sablan said that they were also able to get counts for Tinian and Rota, and the numbers have already been submitted to HUD.

Tinian saw 104 households that are considered displaced

or living in substandard or non-standard homes, comprising 119 adults and adult children and 45 children in all.

Rota saw 11 such households, comprising 13 adults and adult children and eight children.

The CNMI Homeless Prevention Coalition is made up of a combination of agencies such as Karidat Social Services, the Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program, the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc., Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and other agencies.

SWR

From Page 1

are the wave pool, black hole slide, tube slide, kids' pool, Amazon River, tanning pool, Castle pool, and the beach.

The Wave Jungle had been undergoing renovation after it sustained major damage during Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation last Oct. 24 and 25. It was re-opened last July 5, but only re-opened to the public Tuesday.

By Aug. 26, Wave Jungle will be closed again to complete the renovations. The target grand opening is this October.

Jomar Danas, lifeguard se-

nior supervisor, said yesterday that they consider it a soft-opening because not everything is fully open yet.

"We're really focusing on renovating everything completely. We want to make our resort a brand-new resort," said Danas in an interview.

Right now, the main attraction is the wave pool.

Before Yutu, the pool waves were low; during renovations, Saipan World Resort replaced some of the motors. "Now the waves are much higher," said Danas.

The Wave Jungle's Amazon River was also renovated because, according to Danas, the flooring was pretty dangerous due to some

sharp edges.

Now, the flooring of the Amazon River, along with the rest of the pools, are now very smooth.

Danas said they also have a lot of Easter Island heads now, so guests who go to the waterpark will feel like they are in a Tiki resort—or a Maori-inspired resort.

"It used to be more of a jungle feeling. Now we're like a little bit on the Tiki feeling," he said.

The Wave Jungle buildings were also repainted.

There used to be a diving pool, but it has been retrofitted into an additional spa area.

"We have bigger spa now," said Danas.

Saipan World Resort will again be closing the waterpark starting Aug. 26 as they will be fixing the master blaster slide and installing the kids' pole attraction.

Yutu's biggest damage to the waterpark was on the body slide as 90 percent of it broke up and flew into the ocean and the Amazon River. A portion of the master blaster slide or the yellow slide broke and flew into the Amazon River. The slide in the kids' pool also broke up.

Danas said a lot of umbrellas and wooden structure were all damaged and a lot of the debris were in the water. That made it difficult to clean the Wave Jungle.

DISCREPANCY

From Page 1

nation should be directed toward USDOL.

The confusion stems from the release of the second round of the PWS, which showed discrepancies between the prevailing wages of the first 84 job categories that were prioritized in the first round of the PWS. The final round of the PWS was finalized late June 2019 and consists of 291 job categories.

Subsequent questions such as what happens to employers who used the first round of PWS to accomplish steps 1 and 2 in the CW-1 hiring process, or the prevailing wage determination and the temporary employment certification application respectively, and are already on Step 3, the recruitment process, have yet to be clarified.

Saipan Tribune reached out to two companies yesterday and they expressed concerns over the uncertainty of the necessary requirements, especially this late into the fiscal year 2020 CW-1 application process.

Shequanda—not her real name due to some sensitive information—told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that her company, which applies for over 400 CW-1 applications annually, has had temporary employment certifications, or TECs, denied because of the discrepancies noted between the first and second rounds of the PWS.

The CNMI Department of Labor reportedly did not grant some of Shequanda's Step 3 requirements, or the proof of undergoing the recruitment process, because they were reportedly told to use the second PWS data, which showed an increase in salaries for the first

84 occupations.

"How can that be? There isn't even a formal announcement to use the second round of PWS?" she asked. "Everybody is pressured because we know we are running out of time," she said. "USCIS recommends that the petition must be filed six months before the potential date of hiring. But because of this delay—the PWS not being immediately available and the lack of updated CW-1 regulations—we were only recently able to start our CW-1 hiring processes."

"We are already done with step 1," she added. "[Our company] did not want to waste any time, so when the first round of the PWS was released in mid-May 2019, we applied for our employee's PWD right away," she said.

She noted that these are significant delays in the CW-1 hiring processes since new requirements for the fiscal year 2020 CW-1 hiring process requires over a month just to complete steps 1 and 2.

With the recent denial of her Step 3 requirements, Shequanda fears she has to go back to Step 1.

McDonald's Saipan human resource manager Ana Olaes also told *Saipan Tribune* that it was a good thing she has not completed Step 2 for nine of the company's 20 CW-1 workers.

"These are people who have worked at McDonald's since the very beginning," she said. McDonald's Saipan was established in 1992. "These people are really dependable," she noted, adding that many of the company's CW-1 visa holders have been with McDonald's Saipan for over 20 years.

"I spent all this time preparing for Step 1, all for nothing," Olaes said. "It's really disappointing."

Motion to dismiss suit vs DOC execs placed under advisement

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona placed under advisement yesterday a motion to dismiss inmate Reynaldo A. Manila's lawsuit against former Department of Corrections Commissioner Robert Guerrero and two other DOC officials. Manila blames them for his left eye going blind.



Manglona

Manglona said she will issue a written decision. A assistant attorney

general Hessel Yntema argued as counsel for Guerrero and DOC officials Jose K. Pangelinan and Georgia M. Cabrera.

Manila, who remains in the custody of the Department of Corrections, appeared without a lawyer via a telephone. He argued in opposition to defendants' motion.

In defendants' motion to dismiss, Yntema said the first claim against Guerrero and Pangelinan was filed after the two-year statute of limitations has already lapsed.

Yntema said the second claim, against Cabrera, fails to allege a serious harm that resulted from the alleged delay in the treatment of a cataract.

As this is Manila's third amended complaint, Yntema asked the court dismiss the lawsuit with prejudice, which means Manila can no longer re-file the lawsuit.

Manglona recently granted Guerrero's motion to dismiss the claims against him.

Manglona, however, allowed Manila to amend his lawsuit on when and how then-DOC Commissioner Guerrero found out about Manila's need for retinal surgery, and any actions Guerrero may have taken.

Guerrero, who is currently the Department of Public Safety commissioner, was the DOC commissioner when Manila, an inmate, was diagnosed with retinal detachment in the left eye.

Manila sued Guerrero and DOC officials Cabrera and Pangelinan in their personal capacity for alleged violations his Eighth Amendment right to adequate medical care.

Cabrera used to serve as DOC commissioner, while Pangelinan served as acting DOC commissioner when Guerrero was transferred to DPS. Cabrera and Pangelinan are still DOC officials. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Micronesians chief executives meet in Chuuk for MIF

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the 2018-2019 chairman of the Micronesia Islands Forum, joined other Micronesia chief executives this past week to convene the 24th Micronesia Islands Forum in Chuuk.

This year's theme is "Sowing the Seeds of Prosperity for a Sustainable Micronesia."

The chief executives of Micronesia meet every year to discuss and establish regional cooperation on a variety of issues that are of mutu-

al concern to the region. This annual summit brings together the six governors and three presidents of Micronesia, as well as policy representatives from the CNMI, Guam, Palau, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States

of Micronesia and its members states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap.

Last year, the CNMI hosted the 23rd Micronesia Islands Forum on Saipan on April 25-27, 2018, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

In his remarks last week as outgoing chairman, Torres underscored the significance of the meeting between the island leaders, emphasizing the need to work for the common good of Micronesia and to continue collaborating and strengthening the ties within the region.

"A great deal of information has been shared with us here. And while we all have an idea of where we stand as a region, we must continue to forge ahead for the common good of our islands. We know our immediate challenges and we recognize our obstacles," Torres said. "For most of us, we know the pressure of economic hardship very well. Like the vast Pacific Ocean, our challenges unite us and our collective work provides us the tools we need to sow the seeds of prosperity for a sustainable Micronesia."

"We have done much, but we can do more. As an advocate for sustainable communities, I would also like to see our islands reduce and eventually eliminate our dependence on imported produce. We all have an abundance of land and marine resources. The key to sustainability is to grow local, eat local, and live local," Torres said.

The two-day event featured presentations from all nine island jurisdictions and

several key federal and regional partners, including the Office of Insular Affairs, Joint Region Marianas, and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

In addition, committee reports from the MIF's nine standing committees were led by policy representatives from the around the region on:

- Regional Workforce Development Council
- Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council
- Renewable Energy Committee
- Pacific Island Regional Recycling Initiative Committee
- Regional Transportation Committee
- Regional Health Committee
- Regional Telecommunications Committee
- Micronesia Challenge
- Regional Tourism Council

At the end of the forum, Torres renewed his call to work together for the region's economic development and a collective effort to combat the effects of climate change.

"Along the lines of economic development, I believe we all share common concerns on our very limited access to passenger and cargo service throughout our region. I'm interested to see some of the action items proposed by the Transportation Committee in their presentation yesterday. With strong and viable air and ocean transport services, our region will have a greater gateway to economic growth and development.

"Unlike other parts of the world, climate change is a major threat to our remote island communities. As firsthand witnesses to the effects of climate change, we have already seen its current impacts and we have a sense of what is to come if we don't do our part. We must take this threat seriously by adopting policies and safeguards that will curb the increase in carbon emissions. Take it from me, having had two major typhoons in only three years," he added.

Aside from Torres, this year's MIF was attended by Chuuk State Gov. Johnson S. Elimo, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Kosrae State Gov. Carson Sigrah, Yap State Gov. Henry Falan, Pohnpei State Gov. Marcelo K. Peterson, Marshall Islands Minister Amenta Mathew (Cultures & Internal Affairs), Nauru President Baron Waqa, Palau President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., and FSM President David W. Panuelo. (PR)



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Group seeks other funding options for proposed Earhart monument



MARC VENUS

Members of the Amelia Earhart Monument Memorial Inc. pose for a picture last Monday after the group's meeting at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

A non-profit organization that is pushing to erect a monument on Saipan in honor of legendary aviatrix Amelia Earhart is seeking alternatives to fund the project and a location of its potential site.

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Monument Inc., headed by Marie S.C. Camacho, continues to pursue its goal of erecting a memorial in honor of those who claim to have seen her on Saipan.

According to Site Committee chair Oscar Camacho, the group is looking at a site in

Garapan for the monument, near the old Japanese jail and the NMI Museum.

The group is looking at the government for funding, as well as offices such as the Saipan Mayor's Office for the site. One of the group's members, Bruce Bateman, suggested that the organization should also appeal to the private sector for funding and finding a suitable site.

According to the organization's financial reports, they currently have \$15,711.05, obtained mostly through donations. They

aim to reach \$150,000 for the statue's completion.

"We need to have something valuable that tourists can learn when they come, and this...displays the history of Saipan," Marie Camacho said.

Member Herman Cabrera believes that the NMI Museum can also benefit from the statue.

The group strives to create this monument to let the island's visitors, inhabitants, and future generations know about the history of Earhart being on the islands before she disappeared. *(Marc A. Venus)*

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Street market to resume on Thursday

The street market at the Garapan Fishing Base will resume this coming Thursday, July 18.

Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture executive director Parker Yobei informed *Saipan Tribune* yesterday in an email that the Thursday night street market will resume its regular schedule from 5pm to 9pm every Thursday.

The night market was suspended to make way for the

2019 Liberation Day festivities at the Garapan Fishing Base that lasted from June 27 to July 6.

A one-week cushion was given to allow the preparations and clearing of the tents and equipment used for the Liberation Day festivities.

The weekly street market



Yobei

consists of over 37 vendors in the mini-festival—27 of which are food vendors and 10 non-food vendors.

For more information about the Thursday night street market, contact the Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture at (670) 322-9982/83. (*Marc A. Venus*)

CHCC HVSO assures commitment to data security and fraud prevention

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. reaffirmed yesterday its commitment to ensuring the authenticity and protection of all information overseen by the Health and Vital Statistics Office.

The HVSO was established in 2007 with the enactment of the Vital Statistics Act (Public Law 15-50), which authorized the HVSO to administer and maintain the system of vital statistics throughout the CNMI. By law, every newborn must be accounted for and registered with the HVSO, and CHCC has developed and maintained specific processes and procedures that allow all parents to easily register their children in a timely manner after birth.

The HVSO is not only re-

sponsible for the safety and preservation of CNMI vital records, but also works to ensure the security and authenticity of all information provided for the purpose of birth registration. It is the duty of the HVSO Registrar to monitor, detect, and report any fraudulent activities to CHCC management, the CNMI government, and other appropriate state and federal law enforcement agencies. The HVSO is also a member of the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems, which works to develop tools for the verification of vital events to detect and deter fraud in collaboration with the nation's top professionals in identity and security.

The HVSO also issues

copies of birth certificates to eligible persons upon request. Certified birth certificate copies can be used for multiple purposes, including:

- Establishing U.S. citizenship;
- Applying for a Social Security number; and
- Applying for a U.S. passport.

For more information, or to request a certified birth certificate copy, contact the Health and Vital Statistics Office at (670) 236-8717/18 or info@vs-cnmi.org.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow it on Facebook and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out its website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call (670) 234-8950. (*PR*)

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2020 State Plan is now available for public review and comments from July 08-12, 2019. Interested members of the general public may review the CNMI WIC Program 2020 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located in Upper Navy Hill, Mayoria Ave. Building N25. Office hours are from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Monday-Friday). All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no later than close of business on July 12, 2019.

/s/ Esther L. Muna
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Erin Angela Camacho
CNMI WIC Program Administrator



The CNMI WIC Program is an equal opportunity provider, and is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (CFDA #10.557, federal award #7NM700NM5).

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Saipan HR practitioners bone up on E-Verify

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Society for Human Resource Management hosted for the first time a webinar—an internet-based teleconference—for a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service representative, who spoke about USCIS employment programs with SHRM members at their meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

Realuz Bisa, who is with the Outreach Branch of USCIS Verification Division in Los Angeles, provides training and education to employers and the public on programs supported by the USCIS Verification Division that includes E-Verify, Form I-9, and myE-Verify.

In the hour and a half presentation at the Hyatt ballroom, she gave Human Resources managers and business owners basic information about the rules and regulations of E-Verify, a program launched by USCIS in April last year that is the source for information for employers, employees, and the public on electronic employment eligibility verification.

Bisa specifically discussed the use of Form I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification which employers must file when hiring individuals who may legally work in the United States. E-Verify would

compare the information from Form I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification to federal records to confirm if the petitioned employee is eligible to work in the U.S.

To date, E-Verify is a voluntary program but CNMI employers will eventually be required by the NMI Workforce Act to enroll in the Web-based system E-Verify and must follow the requirements of the program.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, E-Verify enrolment would soon be a requirement for all employers that would file for CW-1 visas. USCIS encourages CNMI employers to enroll in the E-Verify program as soon as possible.

For more information on the law and regulations, go to www.e-verify.gov. The user-friendly website provides information about E-Verify and Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, including employee rights and employer responsibilities in the employment verification process. E-Verify.gov allows

employers to enroll in E-Verify directly and permits current users to access their accounts.

Hyatt director for Human Resources Josephine Mesta welcomes activities that benefits human resources practitioners in the CNMI. “The topic today is so relevant. It may be refresher for many but for new human resources people, this is so informative. ... There are some companies that think they are too small and that they don’t need it but it is good for them to hear it,” she said.

“It is great that we have webinars because it is so expensive

to bring someone [to the islands]...to make sure that we are informed and SHRM should do more. ...Being in HR where everything is so dynamic, even in my experience, you have to be on top of things every single day,” Mesta added.

One of the points raised by Bisa that caught the attention of the manager of KSR Saipan who asked not to be named was the hiring of an agent to complete Form I-9. “The presentation was very informative. A lot of important details were given. The

information that struck me was when we delegate to an agent the completion of Form I-9 and if there is any error committed by that agent, the employer will be directly accountable,” she said.

“This makes me think of doing a self-audit on all I-9’s in our company. ... We handle our I-9’s and doing a self-audit will help us double-check what we have on file,” she added.

Facilitating more webinars is on their list of future SHRM projects, said SHRM president Catherine Cachero.

“It worked out pretty seam-

lessly today and I would like to offer more webinars for SHRM. We have very little funding to fly people out here. It requires people to be out here only for a few and, unless I find co-sponsors to help fund it, then it’s very difficult to pay several thousand dollars,” she said.

“If there are other topics that would be helpful with human resources managers or even just different businesses and if we can find a way to offer it, we will, so it will be much easier and available to people,” Cachero added.

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Any question, please call Ben Babauta 236-2563, 483-2563 or email: vicente.babauta@dfs.com



CNMI DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE



CDA COMMONWEALTH
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How to Respond to RFQs and RFPs

Tuesday, July 16 @ 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
1st Floor, CDA Board Room, San Jose



Presented by:
Boris Hertslet, Program Manager

In the last 12 months, over \$150M in Federal contracts have been awarded in the CNMI. How does the Federal government solicit vendors for these contracts? The most common types of solicitations are Request for Quotes (RFQ) and Request for Proposals (RFP). The Guam PTAC will walk participants through the common sections of RFQs and RFPs. We will also provide tips on crafting your response to an RFQ or an RFP.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)
Homeless Prevention Coalition

CNMI HOMELESS PREVENTION COALITION REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The CNMI Homeless Prevention Coalition is soliciting project proposals from qualified and established organizations and agencies to apply for the CNMI Continuum of Care (CoC) grant through Funding Opportunity Number FR-6200-N-25, Primary CFDA #14.267 under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program (24CFR part 578) is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by non-profit providers, states and local government to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness (FR-6200-N-25 Program Description).

The proposal packets are available at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan during regular business hours from Monday thru Friday, except CNMI Holidays beginning Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on July 23, 2019 at 10 a.m. at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to the NMHC Office attention CNMI Homeless Prevention Coalition or emailed directly to Jacob Muna at jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp.

The proposal would be evaluated based on the following criteria (s):

RFP and Required Documentations	10%
Organizational Capacity	20%
Financial Management	20%
Project Plan	30%
Performance Measurement	20%

Proposers must seal and mark their proposals "2019 Continuum of Care Project". Proposers must submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of sealed proposal and submitted to NMHC Central Office no later than 10:00 a.m. on August 16, 2018.

The CNMI Homeless Prevention Coalition reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of the CNMI Homeless Prevention Coalition, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals become the property of the CNMI Homeless Prevention Coalition.

For more information, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, NMHC Planner at (670)234-7689 or (670)483-9447 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Vivian Sablan
Chairwoman

IPI acquires stake in American Sinopan

Imperial Pacific International has acquired a 50% stake in American Sinopan LLC, a Hong Kong-owned company currently developing two parcels of land on Saipan.

The acquisition comes just 24 hours after IPI chair and executive director Cui Li Jie offloaded 9.79% of the company in order to raise funds for development of its integrated resort, Imperial Palace Saipan.

In an overnight filing, IPI said it had entered into a sale and purchase agreement

with First Sinopan International Limited to acquire the 50% equity interest in its wholly-owned subsidiary for \$23.7 million.

According to the announcement, American Sinopan owns two pieces of land on Saipan with a total land area of 129,687 square meters.

The first, set to house 12 villas and a three-story clubhouse on Capital Hill, has already seen fitting out works completed while the second is planned for a new resort hotel with more than 1,700 rooms, IPI said.

American Sinopan has previously stated its plans to develop a garden-themed hotel in Saipan, possibly including the Hilton brand.

IPI said that construction work on this new hotel project has already begun.

However, much like IPI itself, it was recently revealed that American Sinopan has had its own problems finding workers, with a recent application to bring in 620 foreign workers on 12-month H2-B visas rejected. (<https://www.asgam.com>)



SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

From left, National Science Fair INCLUDES science fair second place winner Anica Camacho, first place winner Jerome Ariola, and third place winner Isabella Certeza, share a photo together. A total of 16 high school students completed their four-week research internship with a science fair on June 28 at the University of Guam.

UOG



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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), hereby gives notice to the public that it will make the following described real properties available for Lease with the Option to Purchase upon satisfaction of the total ground lease amount.

LOT NO.	LOCATION	TOTAL GROUND LEASE AMOUNT	INTEREST RATE	TERM	MONTHLY RENTAL PAYMENT
107 T 139	CAROLINAS HEIGHTS	\$35,000.00	6.00%	30	\$ 209.84
008 T 239	MARPO HEIGHTS	\$73,000.00	6.00%	30	\$ 437.67
008 T 114	MARPO HEIGHTS	\$79,000.00	6.00%	30	\$ 473.64

The selection of lessee(s) will be through a lottery pick for each of the three properties and will be open to the general public. It will be held at the NMHC's Field Office in San Jose, Tinian, at 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, August 2, 2019**, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Minimum Lease Amount.** The minimum acceptable lease for each property shall be as indicated above.
- Reserve.** The raffle shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of NMHC.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing the disposition of foreclosed properties with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the lottery of each of the property:
 - To withdraw any property listed in this announcement before the lottery or before a lease proposal for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the lottery without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all lease proposals.
- Lease Proposal.** Lease proposal for any of the three properties shall not be less than as stated above.
- Change of Terms.** NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of this lease proposal by announcement, written or oral, made before the lottery or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any lessee by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Prospective lessees are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the properties are being leased out "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any prospective lessee.
- Lease with Option to Purchase.** NMHC gives notice to the following terms and conditions:
 - The Lease Price shall not be less than the above-listed price.
 - The balance of the Lease Price shall accrue interest at six percent (6%) per annum.
 - Monthly payments of the Lease will be considered rental payments and shall apply as installments towards the purchase and eventual ownership interest in the property.
 - Maximum acceptable Lease term shall be thirty (30) years.
 - The lease agreement shall include the following additional conditions:
 - Lessee to insure property and improvements during the Lease term.
 - Lessee shall be responsible for any and all necessary repairs, maintenance, all utilities and other charges associated with the property.
 - Lease not to be assigned or mortgaged without prior written consent of NMHC.
 - Failure to make a monthly payment may be grounds for termination and eviction.
 - Option to Purchase Provision.** At any time during the thirty (30) year term of the Lease, upon and subject to full payment by Lessee to NMHC, the Lessor, of the balance of the full rental payment, plus any interest accrued thereon, Lessee shall have the option to purchase the property for the price of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). This option to purchase is expressly conditioned on the lease not being in default or declared in default by Lessor prior to the exercising of such option. Any default or declaration of default shall void and nullify Lessee's option right unless Lessor agrees in writing to waive the default.

Dated this 27th day of June, 2019.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios,
Corporate Director

More than 20 killed in Papua New Guinea tribal violence

By **ROD MCGUIRK**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Police and soldiers have been sent to Papua New Guinea's highlands to make arrests and provide security after more than 20 people, mostly women and children, were slain in recent tribal violence over a feud that has lasted for years, officials said Wednesday.

In the latest attack, 16 women and children were killed this week by assailants armed with rifles in the village of Karida in Hela province, said Papua New Guinea Acting Police Commissioner Francis Tokura.

Because two of the victims were pregnant, police put the death toll at 18. Officials differ on whether the attack happened on Sunday or Monday.

Authorities say the slaughter was probably retaliation for an ambush near Peta village on Saturday that left six or seven people dead.

Tokura said 20 police officers and 10 soldiers were sent to Hela to "stop any further violence and capture the killers."

"This is a tragedy. It is an

unbelievable, unthinkable and atrocious criminal act that must be dealt with swiftly and severely," Tokura said in a statement.

"We will use all available resources to bring the killers to justice," he added.

Prime Minister James Marape said many of the victims lived in his electorate. "Today is one of the saddest days of my life," he said on social media.

Marape blamed a police shortage in Hela for the lawlessness.

"How can a province of 400,000 people function with policing law and order with under 60 policemen ...?" he wrote.

"To all who have guns and kill and hide behind the mask of community, learn from what I will do to criminals who killed innocent people, I am not afraid to use strongest measures in law on you," he said, referring to the death penalty.

Tribal violence is common in Papua New Guinea's interior, where villagers avenge relatives in retaliation known as payback.

Hela official Rex Humbi said the latest violence was part of a tribal war that had

been waged for more than 15 years.

"The people that got killed were innocent women and children," he said. "The police do go and investigate. They have the authority, of course, but don't have the firepower" to bring the killers to justice.

The killers were possessed by Satan and "feed on the soul, or the spirits, of the innocents that have been lost," Humbi said.

In this Nov. 15, 2018, file photo, a girl runs towards their home at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

AP



DOL closed from 3pm to 4:30pm today

The CNMI Department of Labor's offices will be closed today, July 12, 2019, from 3pm to 4:30pm for its quarterly department professional development.

CNMI DOL will be enhancing its local capacity and procedural requirements to better assist businesses and employers

through the CW application process with the recent approval of the 2019 CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey and to further develop its new U.S. Department of Labor apprenticeship program.

If you need to reach the CNMI DOL during this time, contact (670) 287-6956 or (670) 285-7863. (PR)

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SAIPAN LOCATIONS: Gualo Rai, Chalan Piao, Paseo de Marianas, Garapan

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Robert T. Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff
Bank of Guam

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE
MATTER
OF THE
ESTATE OF**)
) **Consolidates**
) **Cases:**
)
ELEANOR B.) **Civil Action**
DELOS REYES) **No. 16-0079**
Decedent.)
) **Civil Action**
BANK OF GUAM,) **No. 14-0150**
Plaintiff,)
vs.) **NOTICE OF**
ELEANOR B.) **AUCTION**
DELOS REYES) **ON THE**
and JESSIE) **MORTGAGED**
S. DELOS REYES,) **PROPERTY**
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property entered in the above titled action on June 13, 2019, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff Bank of Guam from the Estate of Eleanor B. Delos Reyes and Defendant Jessie S. Delos Reyes, as prescribed in the Order Granting the Amended Motion for Order of Judicial Sale. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **August 29, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Law Office Robert T. Torres, Law Office, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being in Dandan on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 010 K 102, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01 the original of which was recorded 19 AUG 1987 as Document No. 87-2911 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale:

1. **Public Sale.** The auction shall be open to the general public.

2. **With Reserve.** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the action sale:

- a. to withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
- b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- c. to reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Fax: (670) 234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com and robert.torres@rttlaw-group.com. Any person who submits his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid Identification Card, or other legally acceptable form of identification. A written bid shall include the bidder's signature with his/her telephone number, mailing address, and any other contact information.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to Plaintiff Bank of Guam.

6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer. A copy of the appraisal report and other documents pertaining to the mortgaged property to be sold at public auction is available upon request.

DATED this 24th day of June, 2019.

Isl
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administrator,
Diego R. Kaipat

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE
MATTER
OF THE
ESTATE OF**)
) **Civil Action**
) **No. 99-769 D**
)
**IN THE
MATTER
OF THE
ESTATE OF**) **NOTICE OF HEARING**
) **TO APPOINT FIVE**
) **PROPOSED TRUSTEES**
) **AND TO ESTABLISH**
) **THE MARIA PIERE**
) **MALUS TRUST.**
MARIA)
PIERE MALUS,) **HEARING DATE:**
Deceased.) **AUGUST 15, 2019**
) **TIME: 9 AM**
) **JUDGE: CAMACHO**

TO: ALL HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF MARIA PIERE MALUS INCLUDING THE HEIRS OF SOLTERO MALUS KAIPAT; SIXTO MALUS KAIPAT; JOSEPHA MALUS KAIPAT; CONCEPCION KAIPAT RUBEN AND MARIA ROFAG SABLAN.

Notice is hereby given that on May 16, 2019 the Administrator Diego Kaipat appeared and informed the Court of the family's intention to establish a family trust of the Maria Piere Malus Family Trust with five trustees, one representative each of the heirs of the five children of the decedent. The intention is to consider the establishment of a family trust due to the size of the families, the passing of the five children and the small sizes of the estate properties.

Therefore, the Court will schedule a hearing on **August 15, 2019 at 9 am** to consider the appointment of the five Trustees who are proposed as follows:

- 1. Melissa Taitano Gatharngeg: Nominee from Soltero Malus Kaipat Line
- 2. Lourdes Kaipat: Nominee from Sixto Malus Kaipat Line
- 3. Angeline Ilesuglam Lee: Nominee from Josepha Malus Kaipat Line
- 4. Glenn Ruben: Nominee from Concepcion Kaipat Ruben Line
- 5. Rosemary Sablan Skilling: Nominee from Maria Rofag Sablan Line

The hearing is also for the establishment of the Maria Piere Malus Family Trust for the administration of the two properties (the Beach Road property and the Chalan Pupulu/Quartermaster property) and the continuing distribution of the income from the Beach Road property.

Any and all heirs may appear before the Court and may be heard as to any support, opposition, comments, or objections as to the above intended request or suggestion by the Administrator. A copy of the proposed Trust document shall be filed with the Court on or before July 15, 2019 after which time any persons may appear to inspect or review the draft Trust document. They may also contact the current Administrator Diego Kaipat or counsel Robert T. Torres at 234-5750.

For the family's reference, there are two properties owned collectively by the Heirs of Maria Piere Malus which this court previously directed deeds to be issued to the Heirs of Maria Piere Malus: 1) the Beach Road Lot No. 009 D 59 (Formerly Block 28 Lot 5) approximately 697 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. This property is under a fifty-five-year lease. The lease agreement entered into is by its terms to continue in full force and effect; and 2) Lot No. 1942 numbered (T.D. 640) identified as the "Chalan Pupulu" lot or Quartermaster lot and contains an area of approximately 20, 837 square meters. This property is in Quartermaster where several heirs have built houses or live on the property without any specific deed or conveyance, pursuant to custom.

SO ORDERED this 24th day of May, 2019

/s/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff
Marianas Public Land Trust

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

MARIANAS PUBLIC) **Civil Action**
LAND TRUST,) **No. 16-0220**
)
Plaintiff,)
vs.) **NOTICE OF**
ANN DORIS M. BABAUTA,) **AUCTION AND**
) **JUDICIAL SALE**
Defendant.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property entered in the above titled action on May 28, 2019, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust from Defendant Ann Doris M. Babauta, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on August 16, 2019, at 10:00 A.M., at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room in Capital Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 011 G 335, containing an area of 788 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4414, dated December 16, 1993.

Terms and Conditions of Sale

- 1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public
- 2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- 3. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
 - b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c. to reject any and all bids.
- 4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: (670) 234-7859; Fax (670) 234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
- 5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to the Marianas Public Land Trust.
- 6. **Change of Terms:** Auctioneer and the Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
- 7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 10th day of June, 2019.

/s/ ROBERT T. TORRES, F0197
Auctioneer

Guam wins double gold at Australian music festival

Team Guam, consisting of the award-winning Guam Territorial Band—the official band of Guam—and the new Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra, both took home gold awards at the 2019 Australian International Music Festival held in the city of Sydney.

Additionally, the Guam Territorial Band was selected as a command performance group—one of four, out of over 60 groups representing the various genre of music presented at the festival—to perform at the closing concert and award ceremony last July 10 at the historic Sydney Town Hall.

Sixty-two ensembles comprising over 1,300 participants from over 15 countries participated in this year's 30th international festival.

Guam has participated in this festival in 1993, 2005, 2009, 2014, and 2019. The Guam Territorial Band is a three-time gold award and command performance band.

The Guam Territorial Band



Team Guam took home gold awards at the 2019 Australian International Music Festival recently held in Sydney.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

is co-led by William Brandon Aydtlett and Joanne Matanane and was originally formed as the Governor's Youth Band in 1976 to march at the inaugural parade of President Jimmy Carter. Their current membership spans a vast age range, from middle school student to senior citizens, and performs for many government functions around Guam. Since 2005 the band has spearheaded the Tumon Bay Music Festival, a showcase of young talent from the region.

The Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra was formed in September 2018. Despite being a young ensemble, they managed to score well and win the hearts of audiences while performing in Sydney. Led by 13-year-old Justine Xu from St. John's School as concert mistress and lead violin, the new ensembles looks forward to welcoming new young instrumentalists to join their ranks this fall.

Both groups have been in Sydney since July 4 playing at various venues including:



Team Guam visits the Taronga Zoo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859 Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner Linlin Zhang

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF) **CIVIL ACTION**
PETITION FOR) **NO. 19-0215**
CHANGE OF NAME OF:) **NOTICE OF**
ALISA ZHANG WANG,) **HEARING ON THE**
) **PETITION FOR**
) **CHANGE OF NAME**

A Minor Child.) **Date:** Sept. 30, 2019
) **Time:** 9:00 a.m.
) **Location:** Marianas
) Business Plaza

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Court shall hear the above-entitled matter on this 30th day of September, 2019 at 9:00 a.m./p.m. for Petitioner Linlin, Zhang, Notice of Hearing on Petition for Change of Name. The parties are directed to be present at the hearing at which time the Court shall consider the Petition.

SO ORDERED on this 9th day of July, 2019.

/s/
Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

PINOTE, DEXTER) **FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION**
MARCON) **NO. 19-0274**
)
Petitioner,) **SUMMONS FOR**
) **PUBLICATION**
vs.)
)
PINOTE, LUZVIMINDA)
PALAPAR)
Respondent,)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 7807 SVRB Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 13th day of June, 2019.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Angel Place City Recital Hall, The Sydney Conservatorium, The Sydney Opera House, the (new) Chatswood Concourse Concert Hall, The Maritime Museum at Darling Harbor and the historic Sydney Town Hall (which is older than Carnegie Hall).

Membership in both the Guam Territorial Band and the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra is open to all interested. There is an age limit for the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra, where members cannot be older than age 25 and should have three years minimum playing experience. For more information on the Guam Territorial Band email gtband@gmail.com. For more information on the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra, email tbuogam@gmail.com.

Both groups will be presenting public concerts around Guam at the end of July in conjunction with the 75th Liberation Commemoration. Team Guam returns to Guam early morning tomorrow, July 13, via a Philippine Airlines flight from Manila. **(PR)**

Japanese fishing firm tried to cover up oil, garbage pollution

A Japanese fishing company, Fukuichi Gyogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, was convicted and sentenced yesterday in the District of Guam for two violations of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships and one count of obstruction of an agency proceeding.

The charges stemmed from discharges of waste oil and oily bilge water from the *F/V Fukuichi Maru No. 112* into international waters and the attempt to cover up those discharges when the vessel was inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard in Apra Harbor, Guam. The charges also included failing to properly document the discharge of fishing gear and plastics from the vessel, and obstructing a Coast Guard Port State Control inspection.

"Fukuichi broke the law when they intentionally discharged oily bilge waste into the ocean. To make matters worse, they tried to cover up their unlawful acts by obstructing the routine Coast Guard inspection," said assistant attorney general Jeffrey Bossert Clark for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "The department will continue to work with its partners to ensure that companies, both foreign and domestic, comply with the rule of law."

U.S. Attorney Shawn N. Anderson said: "Fukuichi's fishing vessel plied the waters of the Western Pacific for decades in disregard of basic environmental precautions. It would have continued to do so but for the United States asserting jurisdiction in this criminal prosecution. Our waters and reefs are worthy of protection through punitive enforcement action. We will target any companies or persons who engage in similar unlawful conduct."

Fukuichi pleaded guilty to one count of obstruction of an agency proceeding, and two counts of violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships. The company was ordered to pay a \$1.5-million criminal fine and serve a five-year term

of probation, during which vessels owned and/or operated by the company will be banned from entering the exclusive economic zone, territorial sea, or a port or terminal belonging to the United States without prior approval. Fukuichi will also be required to implement a comprehensive Environmental Compliance Plan that includes vessel audits. The ECP and associated audits must be sent to the nearest U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port prior to any of the company's vessels entering U.S. waters or a U.S. port. The COTP will have the discretion whether to allow such entry based upon the company's compliance with international and domestic laws governing pollution and safety.

Fukuichi was the owner and operator of the vessel, which conducted fishing operations throughout the Pacific Ocean. The vessel entered Apra Harbor, Guam, on April 1, 2019, for repairs to its cargo refrigeration system. Members of the U.S. Coast Guard boarded the vessel and discovered 15 pollution and safety deficiencies and detained the vessel. The inspectors discovered numerous leaks of water and oil into the bilges, and asked the chief engineer to demonstrate operation of the Oil Water Separator. The chief engineer was unable to demonstrate how to operate the OWS and the inspectors determined the OWS had not been used. According to court documents, the chief engineer confessed that the practice on the vessel was to discharge waste oil and oily bilge water directly into the ocean using an emergency bilge pump system and buckets. The inspectors discovered these systems coated with heavy oil. The inspectors examined the vessel's oil record book, which, oddly, was a single volume that spanned 30 years. The inspectors discovered 233 incorrect or false entries in the ORB. Later during the inspection, the inspector discovered that the chief engineer obstructed their pro-

ceeding by erasing 42 of the fraudulent or incorrect entries and replacing them with new information. The inspectors

» Owner fined \$1.5M; banned from US waters and ports for five years

also examined the vessel's garbage record book and discovered that it contained a series of "ditto" marks instead of the signature of the officer in charge of managing the garbage. The inspectors determined based on crew interviews that animal carcasses and fishing gear, which in-

cluded plastic, had been discharged from the vessel and not recorded in the GRB.

"I want to highlight the diligent work of the marine investigators who first identified these issues and worked closely with the vessel crew and the Department of Justice for several months to bring it to a conclusion," said Capt. Christopher Chase, Captain of the Port Coast Guard Sector Guam.

"Marine pollution prevention and response is a cooperative effort requiring the support of many partner agencies in order to hold those who violate international and U.S. law accountable for their actions. The preservation of the ecosystem here and throughout the Pacific is a top priority for the Coast Guard, and this case is one example of how we complete that mission."

"This exceptional collaborative effort continues to deter maritime organizations from these types of devastating illegal practices that threaten to destroy

our natural living marine resources as well as level the playing field for the many responsible companies who obey the laws and regulations created to protect these finite resources," said Coast Guard special agent-in-charge Kelly Hoyle.

The case was investigated by U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Guam, with assistance from the Coast Guard Investigative Service. The prosecution was handled by senior trial attorney Kenneth E. Nelson of the Environmental Crimes Section of the U.S. Department of Justice and assistant U.S. attorneys Mikel Schwab and Marivic David of the District of Guam. (USAO)



Anderson

Northern Marianas Descent Council meeting

All persons of Northern Marianas descent are invited to attend a general membership meeting of the Northern Marianas Descent Council on Saturday, July 13, 2019, starting at 11am, at the Leadership Kiosk in Chalan Kanoa across from the U.S. Post Office.

This is the final meeting to sign and approve the council's constitution and bylaws and corporate charter before filing them with the Registrar of Corporations.

trar of Corporations.

"Everyone is encouraged to join and participate in this historic event. This is our time to give a voice to the people of the Commonwealth who are of Northern Marianas descent and begin to fulfill the promise of the Covenant and our Constitution regarding and public lands and the benefits derived from these lands," said the group's organizers in a statement yesterday. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Ross Perot captured America's imagination and we are better for it

Ross Perot's legendary list of lifetime achievements should start with "captured the imagination." Brilliant in business, generous and demanding, driven, quirky and colorful, Perot was as hard to pigeonhole as a Texas tornado.

His death at age 89 leaves a broad legacy and some of the nation's enduring one-liners born of homespun wisdom. A best-selling book and televised miniseries dramatized his adventure to rescue employees being held in Iran—using his own hired commandos, no less. But no single volume or TV show could capture the man's full sweep.

The hostage rescue was emblematic of a boss who demanded the ultimate effort on the job, then reciprocated with the ultimate loyalty.

If it was difficult working for Perot; it was also different, to put it mildly. Workers at his revolutionary, Dallas-born Electronic Data Systems abided by a meticulous grooming policy that made white shirts mandatory and banned tasseled shoes. Cohabiting unmarried was out.

The rules reflected his background as a Navy officer, training that people said made him manic, even obsessive, about security. Perot was strong medicine, and he wasn't for everybody.

In Texas we recall him as an irresistible force in Austin to drag the state out of the dark ages on public education by demanding results. Asked by Gov. Mark White to tackle the problem, Perot became immersed in research and lobbying, spending his own money and hiring his own experts. Perot won landmark reforms in the Legislature in 1984, and the legacy of measuring student progress remains today.

In Dallas some may recall that he wrote a \$10 million check to assure a spectacular new downtown symphony hall. Others may not know of his role, since his condition was putting his friend's name on the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center.

Across the nation, Perot is best known for big fights and swashbuckling, like his attempt to deliver Christmas presents to POWs in North Vietnam and his relentless push to find MIAs after the war.

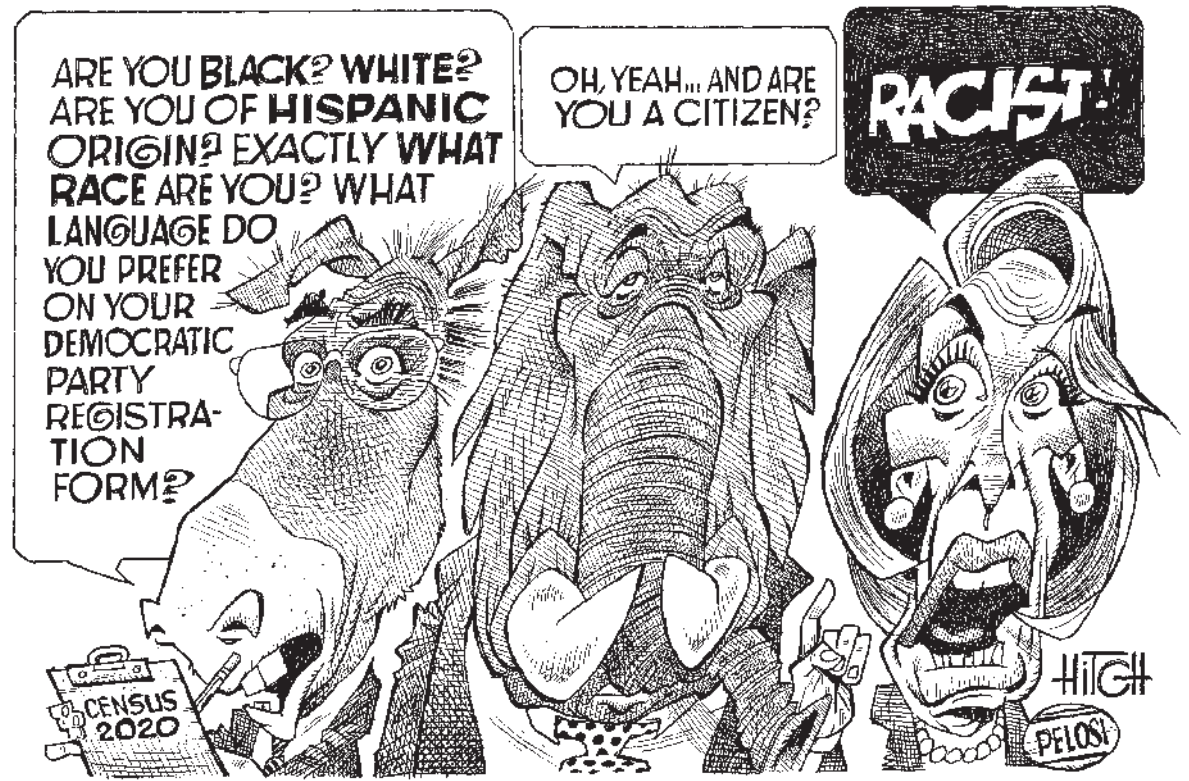
One of his noisiest fights was with General Motors, after it acquired EDS. The cultural collision between Perot's Texans and GM's traditions was epic, and the auto giant bought out his stake to secure the peace. The deal asked a lot of Perot—keeping his opinion of GM to himself.

Perot may be best known in defeat, running an unconventional yet formidable populist campaign for president in 1992 and again, with less impact, in 1996. The blunt-talking billionaire seemed out of place or off the mark at times, but he stoked debate on his core issues of budget deficits and trade imbalance.

People still refer to "the giant sucking sound" Perot warned about—the sound of jobs leaving country.

Taking in the broader sweep of the man, we would say he was a person who didn't accept the world as it was. He always believed, or at least his actions told us that he believed, that the world could be made better, that great accomplishments were possible. In many ways he did that by capturing the

See PEROT on Next Page



The end of an era and the start of a new one

End of an era...

Raise your hand if you have never been to Managaha. Hey you, back in the back, put your hand down. I saw you at the Chief Aghurubw memorial celebration on Managaha last year. Sure, you have spent a few memorable days basking in the sun, walking the shady paths, snorkeling in the world's No. 1 snorkel site, riding the banana boats and eating lunch at the food buffet up by the gift shop. Maybe you tied your small boat up to a buoy just offshore, with your tunes wafting you off to sleep as the waves gently rocked you. Maybe you rode the free-to-locals shuttle boat out to our beautiful little island a mile and a half offshore. As a kid you remember looking way up and waving to the lifeguard in the big yellow chair. As an adult you watched your own kids splashing in the roped off swimming area. You can smell the smoke of those many family beachside BBQ's under the clean, neat *pala palas*, the smooth white sand squishing between your toes, taking a picture up by the big canon. Maybe you even camped out there.

You enjoyed the clean, well-organized small developed area and you enjoyed the clean well-groomed natural environment of the rest of that small island. You have Japanese company Tasi Tours to thank for those memories and experiences. Left by itself it would be a weed-choked overgrown spot eroding back into the lagoon instead of the paths being raked and every trace of litter being taken cared of by its long-term caretaker, Tasi Tours. I owe them a big thank you. You likely owe them one too. For sure, the CNMI tourism industry owes Tasi Tours management and staff a huge thank you for decades of tender loving care of our jewel in the lagoon, Managaha.

...and a new start

U-Top Investment is a joint venture of China-based U-Tour Group Co. Ltd., and CNMI-based Top Development Inc. or TDI. While they haven't signed the Department of Public Lands lease yet, they are the presumptive new exclusive concessionaire for Managaha Island and have been officially notified as such by DPL.

We can only hope that they will love it and treat it as well as their multi-decade predecessor. I am confident they will let rational self-interest induce them to do the right thing, the first-class thing with the management and execution of their new concession. You'll be seeing a lot of us local residents pretty often. You'll be the frontline representing CNMI tourism to nearly every visitor that shows up on Saipan. U-Top, please make us as proud of you as we are of our jewel in the lagoon, Managaha Island. Thanks.

Mayor Dave un-tires

Mayor Dave has done the right thing by getting rid of the painted tires, the used plastic planters and the cut-in-half water bottles that were adorning our island's "landscaping." Nice job redirect-

SOUR GRAPES

By **BRUCE BATEMAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.



ing your crews to plant those beautiful flowers in the ground where they belong, Mayor. The traffic islands and roadside displays look great now. I also see a lot more and a lot more frequent landscape maintenance going on and that makes our beautiful island look a lot better than before. Our visitors see beautiful flowers and many well-maintained landscaped areas now. That makes them want to come back. Thanks!

It is also nice to see the collaboration between Mayor Dave and MVA to keep up several of the major road intersection "mini-gardens." These kind of projects require the money that is due by law to MVA to be paid to them by the central government's Finance Department. Without funding they are weed-ridden eyesores instead of beautiful little gardens. Kudos to both the Mayor and MVA for cooperating on this project. Finally, we hope that you don't re-tire from your job as Mayor anytime soon, Mayor Dave. J

In addition to the SMO, the Parks and Rec department and DPW also help maintain our roadsides and traffic islands. Those of us lucky enough to live here will be doing our part to help keep things clean and neat. There are ongoing beach clean-ups and many other organized events set up to help keep our islands clean. Most important is our own individual responsibility not to litter.

Excerpts from Marie Castro's book

Born on Saipan, Marie Castro has written an excellent short book recounting the highlights of Amelia Earhart's time on Saipan as recounted by local resident eyewitnesses and by U.S. military witnesses. These excerpts from *Marie Castro: My Life and Amelia Earhart's Saipan Legacy* are reprinted here with permission from the author:

In 1962 Joaquina M. Cabrera was interviewed by [author Fred] Goerner. "Mrs. Joaquina M. Cabrera brought us closer to the woman held at the Kobayashi Royokan [Hotel] than any other witness," Goerner wrote.

At the Cabrera home in Chalan Kanoa, Goerner and several others, including Fr. Arnold Bendowske and Sylvan Conover, and Ross Game, editor of the *Napa* (California) *Register* and

See ERA on Next Page

\$15 minimum wage debate

National policymakers are debating the impact of raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour that is now under review by the U.S. Congressional Budget Office.

An increase would be a boon for millions of workers; the flip side is the millions who would also lose their jobs in the process.

"The Congressional Budget Office found that hiking the current \$7.25 hourly minimum wage to \$15 by 2025 would have a mixed impact on the workforce, raising the average weekly pay of an estimated 17 million while throwing as many as 3.7 million out of work."

There are those who advocate allowing economic conditions to dictate wages over statutory impositions by the U.S. Congress. The conflicting discussions, legitimate in everyway from both sides, never settles on an agreed position. The matter turns into a perennial issue that spreads quickly among politicians as though a new strain of flu.

Here at home, policymakers must wrestle with the disposition of fast economic contraction that translates into far less revenue for the CNMI. Imagine trying to help the 15,000 employees stuck under starvation income simultaneously paralyzed by the fast descending economic contraction. Hope?

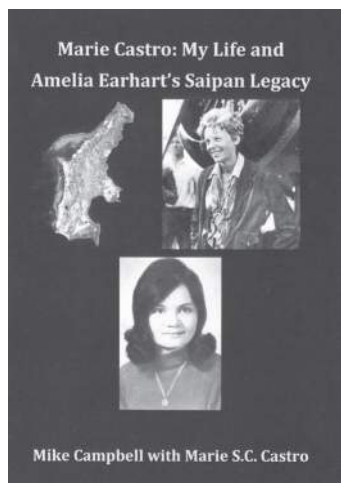
Yes, I've seen households who really need to be lifted out of the starvation income category. But this must be taken beyond

ERA

From Page 14

longtime Goerner confidant "crowded into the front room... and listened to her halting recital." Joaquina described her job as that of a laundress for the Japanese guests and prisoners kept there:

"One day when I came to work, they were there... a white lady and man. The police never left them. The lady wore a man's clothes when she first came. I was given her clothes to clean. I



remember pants and a jacket. It was leather or heavy cloth, so I did not wash it. I rubbed it clean. The man I saw only once. I did not wash his clothes. His head was hurt and covered with a bandage, and he sometimes needed help to move. The police took him to another place and he did not come back. The lady was thin and very tired.

Every day more Japanese came to talk with her. She never smiled to them but did to me. She did not speak our language, but I know she thanked me. She was a sweet, gentle lady. I think the police sometimes hurt her. She had bruises and one time her arm was hurt. ...Then, one day... police said she was dead of disease." [Dysentery, most likely.]

Next week I will cover part of an intriguing and most interesting chapter in Marie Castro's book called "The American GI witnesses on Saipan" in which a number of military personnel give accounts of her airplane, personal effects, and of Amelia and Fred Noonan here on Saipan. These accounts come from many military sources from privates and even from generals and admirals. I was amazed to read about this and I think you will be interested too.

"Minds are like flowers; they open only when the time is right."

—Stephen Richards

"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."

—Luther Burbank

PEROT

From Page 14

imagination of millions and signaling that the seemingly impossible was achievable. The hard-charging approach drove change and bent the arc of history.

Not everything worked out. Not everything worked out for the better. But a lot did. Perot left a mark, and in the broad sweep of history we are better for it.

(c)2019 The Dallas Morning News

pennies that lead families out of abject poverty, permanently. Mediocre performance isn't the answer! Why give pennies that fail to improve family economic conditions to a level of common decency?

Understood that the increase and all its complex implications are far removed from ordinary employees struggling with starvation income. Is an intermittent increase your best answer? Isn't the more realistic paradigm the resurgence of new investments? I haven't seen anything up this alley since recent past.

■■■

Newsy: The only other activity making headlines today is money owed CUC by various government agencies in the millions of dollars. You add CHC and therein we find a huge mountain of debt to contend with. All agencies, though, are into making requisite cuts to stay afloat.

Planned austerity measures were prompted by a huge reduction in revenue generation. It forces leadership to navigate scarce resources.

The new challenge is keeping a bloated payroll as revenue generation heads south. The governor has hinted reduction in services and work hours or perhaps a combination thereof. It's a certainty given the contraction or reduction in revenue since recent past.

Adding humor, Magoo said, "*Wen natting, den natting.*" In brief, don't spend when there's nothing in the coffers. If you brave it, then it turns into "deficit spending." Bad habit all the way around!

■■■

Resolve? There's growing stagnancy in activities affecting every sector here that brings forth the necessity to make significant cuts in the size of government. Downsizing or reduction would result in savings so more funds are earmarked for essential services like health care and education.

Appalling how we speak loudly of a bloated system, yet yawn long and hard ignoring it simultaneously. Obviously, there's simply the lack of resolve to put teeth behind our big

The definition of controversial

It's only controversial
if someone might be deposed
The one who might lose power
is the one who is opposed

It's only controversial
when the cash cow's growing lean
For money's all that matters
all else said is just smoke screen

It's only controversial
when the golden goose is sold
For status quos entrenched for years
won't give up their stronghold

It's only controversial
when the truth might be revealed
Control depends on lies
and all the liars' lips are sealed

So, is it controversial?
Seek the facts behind the memes
There's a battle for supremacy
that's what it really means!

I had a chat yesterday with a documentary producer working on a story about Super Typhoon Yutu for the BBC Earth series (see community query below). He mentioned that, these days, many people in the U.S. are reluctant to say, as I did, that "the typhoons and storms seem to be getting more frequent and more severe due to global warming" given the controversy over that topic.

I told him there *is* no debate. There *is* no controversy. The so-called debate is all contrived. I once read a quote to the effect that the word "controversy" is really a euphemism. It really means someone's position of power or source of money is being threatened. Whenever you hear about a "controversial" new this or a "controversial" new that on the evening news, all you need to do to understand what's really going on is ask yourself, "Whose power is being threatened?"

For example, "controversial alternative therapies" threaten the medical establishment's and pharmaceutical companies' financial power. "Controversial" meat substitutes threaten the beef council. "Controversial" labeling of soybean beverages as soy "milk" threaten the dairy industry.

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

mouth. Call it adolescence!

Do we need the luxury of a bicameral legislative system composed of 29 members? Is the NMI still in need of fundamental laws? When do we actually take the issue full square so we reduce it down to a unicameral system with eight to 10 members?

Now, we have 31 combined departments and agencies in the CNMI. Has the expansion factually resulted in the improvement of the quality or life of the indigenous people? Are we going to put teeth into cutting excess baggage or do we slide back into our favorite expression: "not yet, already?" Resolve?

■■■

Liberation75: For all of our country's successes and failures, Scott Rasmussen said it best, "Our nation has never been—and never will be—perfect. But our founding ideals remain a noble beacon of hope for all Americans to follow." He is a political analyst, author, public speaker and columnist for Creators Syndicate.

As remote the physical geography of these isles are, we're still under the "Stars and Stripes Forever," and would not have it any other way. Indeed, we celebrated the 75th year of our country's independence or what's commonly known here as Liberation Day.

I did my solemn prayer for those who made the ultimate sacrifice so we could enjoy our freedom, singing, "America the Beautiful...and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea."

By **WALT GOODRIDGE**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Walt Goodridge is author of over 24 books and conducts workshops to help others turn their passion into profit. Learn more at www.waltgoodridge.com. Walt's Friday LIFE RHYme #489. Full archive: www.liferhymes.com.

How do we know this is true? Well, people have been using home remedies for centuries. Meat analogs (think "tofu burger") have been around for decades. It only became "controversial" when market share of products like BeyondBeef increased and sales of the new product started to threaten the profits of the established order. Then, suddenly, all sorts of "controversy" appeared!

Despite what those opposed would have you believe, their opposition has nothing to do with concern over public confusion by labeling. It has nothing to do with the FDA's concern for health and safety. (If that were the case, then MSG would have been banned from supermarket shelves decades ago!)

It's purely a battle for market dominance and supremacy.






Oh, and for the record, one of the main reasons that climate change is being contrived to be "controversial" is that once you admit that it's real, then you are obligated to seek a solution, and the solution—controlling emissions—means cutting back the expansion and profits of industries that contribute to that warming by burning fossil fuels, cutting down rain forests and livestock farming. That's the simple reason that certain segments of the population—those who benefit from these industries—oppose the concept. It's about a loss of power. (The other subset of society opposed to admitting the truth of climate change are the very religious who believe that they take "power" away from God's omnipotence to admit that humans are causing climate change.)

So, from now on, listen carefully how that word is used in news broadcasts, and ask the right questions to figure out the truth!

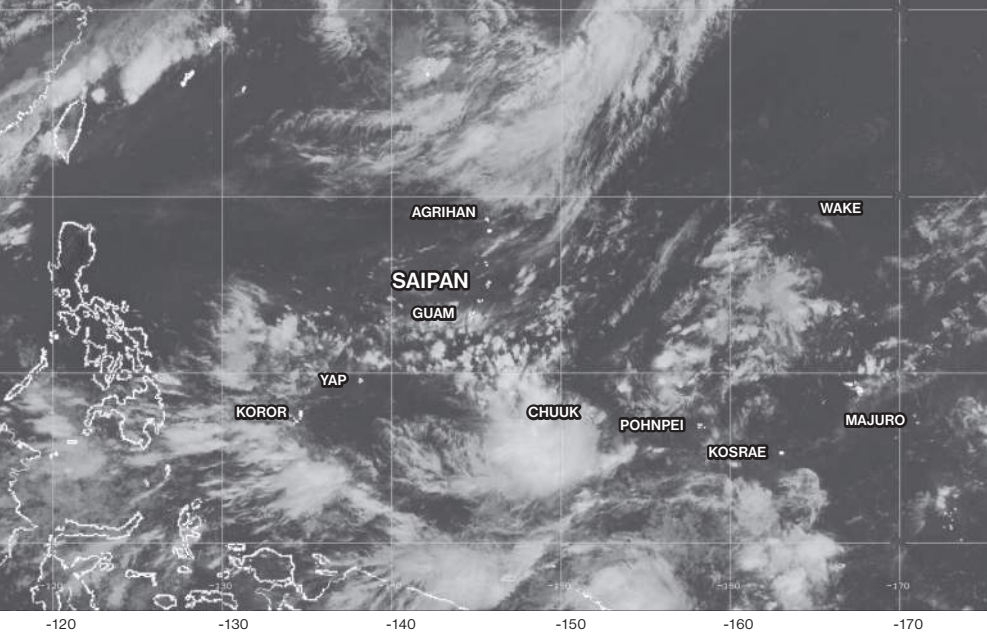
COMMUNITY QUERY: By the way, do you have video of Super Typhoon Yutu? That producer I mentioned needs actual video taken while the storm was in force (Oct. 25, 2018, before 7am), not the aftermath. If you do, please contact me at walt@saipanliving.com and I'll put you in touch with him. It could help bring a little more global attention to Saipan and our recovery efforts.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly sunny with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89°79°	89°79°	89°79°	90°79°	90°79°

YESTERDAY’S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:56 AM, THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. Satellite and lightning data show an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms several hundred miles to the east. The VAD wind profile shows east-northeast winds of 12 to 16 knots just off the surface which then increase to between 20 and 25 knots through the lowest 16 thousand feet of the air.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	63° / 55°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	93° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 84°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
London	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 69°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
Melbourne	Showers	52° / 43°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°	
Osaka	Showers	84° / 72°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	79° / 59°	
Busan	Rain	75° / 70°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	88° / 66°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	89° / 73°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	65° / 54°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	82° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	90° / 73°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:20 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.14	
10:41 AM	LOW TIDE	0.29	
5:28 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74	
10:25 PM	LOW TIDE	1.24	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:49 AM	2:46 PM
Saturday	-	2:34 AM	3:41 PM
Sunday	-	3:22 AM	4:36 PM
Monday	-	4:11 AM	5:30 PM
Tuesday	-	5:02 AM	6:22 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 5, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	4:00am	7:00am	3	7C3452	10:00pm	3:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	10:05pm	3:05am+1	4
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 3, 5	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7				
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7				
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily				
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily				

Business

Facing calls for resignation, Acosta defends Epstein deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Trying to tamp down calls for his resignation, Labor Secretary Alex Acosta on Wednesday defended his handling of a sex-trafficking case involving now-jailed financier Jeffrey Epstein, insisting he got the toughest deal he could at the time.

In a nearly hour-long news conference, Acosta retraced the steps that federal prosecutors took in the case when he was U.S. attorney for the Southern District

ficking charges against the wealthy hedge fund manager. And on Wednesday, a new accuser stepped forward to say Epstein raped her in his New York mansion when she was 15.

Jennifer Araoz, now 32, told "Today" she never went to police because she feared retribution from the well-connected Epstein. She now has filed court papers seeking information from Epstein in preparation for suing him.



Acosta

of Florida a decade ago, insisting that "in our heart we were trying to do the right thing for these victims." He said prosecutors were working to avoid a more lenient arrangement that would have allowed Epstein to "walk free."

"We believe that we proceeded appropriately," he said, a contention challenged by critics who say Epstein's penalty was egregiously light.

The episode reignited this week when federal prosecutors in New York brought a new round of child sex-traf-

dling of the case arose during Acosta's confirmation hearings, it has come under fresh and intense scrutiny after the prosecutors in New York brought their charges on Monday, alleging Epstein abused dozens of underage girls in the early 2000s, paying them hundreds of dollars in cash for massages, then molesting them at his homes in Florida and New York. Epstein has pleaded not guilty to the charges; if convicted he could be imprisoned for the rest of his life.

Acosta's lawyerly presentation was an effort to push back against growing criticism of his work in a secret 2008 plea deal that let Epstein avoid federal prosecution on charges that he molested teenage girls. A West Palm Beach judge found this year that the deal had violated the Crime Victims' Rights Act because the victims were not informed or consulted.

He was also out to persuade President Donald Trump to keep him on the job as Democratic presidential candidates and party leaders called for his ouster.

Acosta insisted his office did the best it could under the circumstances a decade ago. He said state authorities had planned to go after Epstein with charges that would have resulted in no jail time until his office intervened and pressed for tougher consequences, a contention that is supported by the record. The alternative, he said, would have been for federal prosecutors to "roll the dice" and hope to win a conviction.

"We did what we did because we wanted to see Ep-

stein go to jail," Acosta said. "He needed to go to jail."

But Epstein only was given 13 months in a work-release program, which let him work

out of the jail six days a week. Acosta said it was "entirely appropriate" to be outraged about that leniency, but he blamed that on Florida author-

ities. "Everything the victims have gone through in these cases is horrific," he said, while repeatedly refusing to apologize to them.

"I think it's important to stand up for the prosecutors" in his old office, he said.

Treasury secretary: Congress may need quick debt limit deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress might need to extend the government's crucial ability to borrow money before leaving the Capitol for its August recess, Trump administration officials said Wednesday. The timetable would heap extraordinary pressure on lawmakers to cut a deal on a measure that usually requires lengthy and politically delicate negotiations.

The remarks by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin came two days after the Bipartisan Policy Center, a centrist research organization, projected that lower than expected federal revenue could drain the government's cash by early September. Unless Congress extends the debt limit first, that could mean an unprecedented federal default, which many think could batter the economy.

"That is something we're having discussions about, updating the numbers and poten-

tially the need to do something before everybody leaves" for the summer recess, Mnuchin told reporters.

The Treasury secretary spoke after he and other top White House officials met for about an hour with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif.

A vote to extend the government's power to borrow money is a painful one for many lawmakers, especially Republicans, because many voters view the measure inaccurately as a reason for massive federal deficits, rather than a result of them.

Because of that, party leaders prefer to couple debt-limit extensions with more palatable provisions.

This year, top Republicans and Democrats hope to include language raising limits on de-

fense and domestic spending that Congress imposed years ago and are now viewed as far too draconian.

Talks over those spending caps are far from resolved and seemed possible to last at least until Oct. 1, when the new government fiscal year begins. An agreement would need to be bipartisan because it would have to clear the Democratic-run House and the GOP-controlled Senate and be signed by President Donald Trump.

The House is due to leave town on July 26, the Senate on Aug. 2.

Asked about the day's meeting, McConnell told reporters, "Secretary Mnuchin is discussing the matter with the speaker, and that's where it goes next."

Mnuchin and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., plan to discuss the debt limit and spending caps Thursday.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Judiciary

Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. BOX 502165, SAIPAN MP 96950
(670) 236-9720 • www.justice.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS RFQ19-JUDICIARY-098

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HVAC SYSTEM AND MOLD REMEDIATION SERVICES

The Judiciary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("Judiciary") is soliciting sealed qualifications statements for the supply and installation of Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning ("HVAC") system and mold remediation service providers. Details on the requested qualifications statements and scope of project are described in RFQ19-Judiciary-098 ("RFQ").

A copy of the RFQ can be obtained by visiting the CNMI Division of Procurement & Supply, located at Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, between 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, excluding observed holidays and austerity Friday's, upon registration completion. For general procurement information, the Division of Procurement & Supply may be contacted at 664-1506. Questions on the project or scope of work must be in writing, addressed to John T. Villagomez, Budget & Finance Director, CNMI Judiciary, and e-mailed to the following address no later than **July 19, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.**: John.villagomez@justice.gov.mp. Questions submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Pre-Submission Meeting. A voluntary pre-submission meeting is scheduled for **9:30 a.m. on July 15, 2019 at the Guma' Hustisia Supreme Court Chambers.**

Submission Deadline: Qualifications statements must be submitted in person to the CNMI Division of Procurement & Supply no later than 3:00 p.m. on July 24, 2019, Chamorro Standard Time. Qualifications Statements submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

/s/ David DLG. Atalig
Secretary of Finance

/s/ Joaquin S. Reyes
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

In Consultation with:

/s/ Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-013, Rev.1

AGINGAN PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-013, Rev.1 Agingan Primary Screen Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **July 19, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Proponents shall comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 2, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON
Purchasing Administrator

Nation

Flooding swamps New Orleans; possible hurricane coming next

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A storm swamped New Orleans streets and paralyzed traffic Wednesday as concerns grew that even worse weather was on the way: a possible hurricane that could strike the Gulf Coast and raise the Mississippi River to the brim of the city's protective levees.

The storm was associated with an atmospheric disturbance in the Gulf that forecasters said was on track to strengthen into a hurricane by the weekend. The National Hurricane Center expected the system to become a

tropical depression by Thursday morning, a tropical storm by Thursday night and a hurricane on Friday.

Lines of thunderstorms ranged far out into the Gulf and battered New Orleans, where as much as 8 inches (18 centimeters) of rain fell over a three-hour period, officials said.

Mississippi and Texas were also at risk of torrential rains.

In New Orleans, streets turned into small, swift rivers that overturned garbage cans and picked up pieces of floating wood. Water was up to the

doors of many cars. Other vehicles were abandoned. Kayakers paddled their way down some streets.

At one point, the storm prompted a tornado warning. The National Weather Service planned to investigate apparent wind damage to at least one house on Bayou St. John, a channel extending from Lake Pontchartrain.

Chandris Rethmeyer lost her car to the flood and had to wade through water about 4 feet (1.22 meters) deep to get to safety. She was on her way home af-

ter working an overnight shift when she got stuck behind an accident in an underpass and the water started rising.

"I was going to sit in my car and let the storm pass," she said. "But I reached back to get my son's iPad and put my hand into a puddle of water."

Valerie R. Burton woke up to what looked like a lake outside her door.

"There was about 3 to 4 feet of water in the street, pouring onto the sidewalks and at my door. So I went to my neighbors to alert them and tell them

to move their cars," she said.

Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency and said National Guard troops and high-water vehicles would be positioned all over the state in advance of more heavy rain.

"The entire coast of Louisiana is at play in this storm," Edwards said.

Forecasters said Louisiana could see up to 12 inches (30 centimeters) of rain by Monday, with isolated areas receiving as much as 18 inches (46 centimeters).

The additional rain could push the already swollen Mississippi River precariously close to the tops of levees that protect New Orleans, officials said.

A spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers in New Orleans said the agency was not expecting widespread overtopping of the levees, but there are concerns for areas south of the city. The weather service expects the river to rise to 20 feet (6 meters) by Saturday morning at a key gauge in

the New Orleans area, which is protected by levees 20 to 25 feet (6 to 7.6 meters) high.

The Corps was working with local officials to identify low-lying areas and reinforce them, he said. He cautioned that the situation may change as more information arrives.

"We're confident the levees themselves are in good shape. The big focus is height," spokesman Ricky Boyett said.

New Orleans officials have asked residents to keep at least three days of supplies on hand and to keep their neighborhood storm drains clear so water can move quickly. As the water from Wednesday morning's storms receded, people worried about what might come next.

Tanya Gulliver-Garcia was trying to make her way home during the deluge. Flooded streets turned a 15-minute drive into an ordeal lasting more than two hours. She was supposed to head out of town for a weekend trip but now wonders whether the flights will take off.



AP

Terrian Jones reacts as she feels something moving in the water at her feet as she carries Drew and Chance Furlough to their mother on Belfast Street in New Orleans during flooding from a storm in the Gulf Mexico that dumped lots of rain Wednesday, July 10, 2019.

New holding center for migrant children opens in Texas

CARRIZO SPRINGS, Texas (AP)—A former oilfield worker camp off a dirt road in rural Texas has become the U.S. government's newest holding center for detaining migrant children after they leave Border Patrol stations, where complaints of overcrowding and filthy conditions have sparked a worldwide outcry.

Inside the wire fence that encircles the site are soccer fields, a giant air-conditioned tent that serves as a dining hall, and trailers set up for use as classrooms and as places where children can call their families.

The long trailers once used to house workers in two-bedroom suites have been converted into 12-person dorms, with two pairs of bunk beds in each bedroom and the living room.

The Department of Health and Human Services said about 225 children are be-

ing held at the site in Carrizo Springs, with plans to expand to as many as 1,300, making it one of the biggest camps in the U.S. government system.

The government said the holding center will give it much-needed capacity to take in more children from the Border Patrol and prevent their detention in stations like the one in Clint, Texas, where lawyers last month reported some 250 youngsters were being held in cells with inadequate food, water and sanitation. Of the children held at Carrizo Springs, 21 had previously been detained at Clint, HHS spokesman Mark Weber said.

HHS said the Carrizo Springs location is a comfortable environment for children while they wait to be placed with family members or sponsors in the U.S.

But immigrant advocates and

others liken such places to child prison camps and worry that the isolated location 110 miles (180 kilometers) from San Antonio, the nearest major city, will make it more difficult to find lawyers to help the teenagers with their immigration cases.

Advocates have complained that HHS' largest holding centers—a facility in Homestead, Florida, a converted Walmart in Brownsville, Texas, and a now-closed tent camp at Tornillo, Texas—have traumatized children through overcrowding and inadequate staffing.

"All of this is part of a morally bankrupt system," said Rep. Joaquin Castro, a San Antonio Democrat.

There's also the huge cost: an average of \$775 per day for each child. HHS plans to pay the nonprofit Baptist Child and Family Services up to \$300 million through January

to run the Carrizo Springs site.

The government allowed The Associated Press to visit on Tuesday and distribute photos and video, though the AP could not show children's faces because of privacy restrictions.

Boys and girls are kept in separate buildings and follow separate schedules. They have decorated their rooms with drawings of superheroes and the flags of their home countries, including Guatemala and El Salvador. Many children smiled and greeted visitors as they walked by. Several girls knitted yarn hats and armbands.

A series of tents serves as the infirmary, with nurses on hand treating a few children for lice and flu-like symptoms.

Breakfast is at 7 a.m., followed by soccer, then six hours of classes in reading, writing, social studies, science and math.

ACROSS THE NATION

Couple claims clinic implanted their embryo in wrong woman

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Southern California couple is suing a fertility clinic, claiming their embryo was mistakenly implanted in a New York woman, who gave birth to their son as well as a second boy belonging to another couple. The lawsuit by Anni and Ashot Manukyan describes an alleged in vitro fertilization mix-up by CHA Fertility Center in Los Angeles that involves three separate couples. "What Anni and Ashot discovered, much to their horror, was that their son had been stolen from them when he was still an embryo and implanted into a stranger that later became his birth mother," claims the suit filed Wednesday in Los Angeles County Superior Court. The birth mother in New York believed she was carrying twins made from her and her husband's genetic material, the suit says. Genetic testing confirmed the two infants were not related to the couple and were not related to each other. The Queens woman and her husband filed a separate medical malpractice and negligence lawsuit in federal court in Brooklyn last week. The Manukyans, of Glendale, California, endured a court fight before being granted custody of their son, according to the court filing. They are seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

Trump organization cancels golf event with stripper caddies

MIAMI (AP)—President Donald Trump's company said Wednesday it has canceled a golf tournament with strippers serving as caddies that was to be held at Trump's golf resort near Miami. The Washington Post reports the Trump Organization issued a statement saying the event would no longer take place because a children's charity that was to benefit from it had pulled out. The statement said "all amounts paid will be refunded." The Shadow All Star Tournament was organized by a Hialeah strip club, Shadow Cabaret. The club had advertised on Facebook and its website that the event would be held Saturday at Trump National Doral. The tournament offered golfers a choice of dancers to be their "caddy girl." Shadow Cabaret's marketing director Emanuele Mancuso had said there would be no nudity at the resort. After the tournament, golfers and dancers were to go to a different venue for a burlesque show. A Trump Organization statement to the Washington Post said funds raised by the tournament were to go to the Miami All Stars charity. However, the organization's director, Carlos Alamilla, told The Associated Press that he withdrew Wednesday because he wasn't aware a strip club was involved.

Asia

Thai leader names new Cabinet with military colleagues

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha on Wednesday officially named his new Cabinet, a mix of members of the military government he headed after leading a 2014 coup and key politicians who helped him assemble a majority in the House of Representatives after March elections.

Prayuth will be both prime minister and defense minister

in the 36-member Cabinet announced in the Royal Gazette.

Democrat party leader Jurin Laksanawisit will be a deputy prime minister and commerce minister, while Bhumjai Thai Party leader Anutin Charnvirakul will be deputy prime minister and health minister. Anutin campaigned for legalization of the production of marijuana to aid farmers.

The three other deputy

prime ministers held the same job in Prayuth's military government. One, Prawit Wongsuwan, was a senior career military officer like Prayuth. Another former senior officer,

Anupong Paojinda, retains the post of interior minister.

The Cabinet members are expected to be sworn in next week.

The March elections were

held under laws enacted by the junta to disadvantage established political parties. Critics also charged that the Election Commission helped the military-backed Palang Pracharath

party, which backed Prayuth.

On June 6, the combined chambers of Parliament elected Prayuth prime minister by a vote of 500 to 244 for his opponent, anti-military candidate Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit.

Prayuth's election was virtually assured because all 250 senators were appointed by the junta he headed. Every member of the Senate voted for Prayuth except for the Senate speaker, who abstained.

Analysts say the next government is likely to be short-lived because the coalition that supports Prayuth includes many political parties, each with its own agenda, and they will face strong opposition in the House, where they have only a slight majority.

The announcement of the new Cabinet came a day after Prayuth revoked dozens of special executive orders and vowed to stop issuing more as he prepared to lead an elected civilian government.

After seizing power, Prayuth gave himself special legislative powers that allow him to issue orders that have the force of law.

He signed an order Tuesday revoking 66 of the more than 500 executive orders he had issued. Critics claimed it was an attempt to make it appear that the military is relinquishing power and transitioning to an elected government, although the new government will have members of his military regime retaining key positions.



Thailand Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha waves on his arrival at Kansai International Airport in Izumino, Osaka prefecture, Thursday, June 27, 2019.

ASIAN BRIEFS

At UN body, 22 nations urge China to end Xinjiang detentions

GENEVA (AP)—Human Rights Watch says 22 Western countries have issued a statement urging China to end mass arbitrary detentions and other violations against Uighurs and other Muslims in the Xinjiang region. The advocacy group hailed the "important" statement at the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council, which amounts to a symbolic step toward greater expression of concern about China's policies in Xinjiang. The signatories issued the statement as a "letter" at the council, and stopped short of seeking a council resolution—a testament to the challenges of building support against increasingly influential China. Rights groups and the United States estimate up to 1 million Muslims may be arbitrarily detained in Xinjiang. China denies widespread abuse in the detention centers and calls them training schools aimed to combat extremism and provide employable skills.

Hong Kong activists hold vigil for deceased supporters

HONG KONG (AP)—Pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong held a memorial vigil Wednesday night for deceased supporters of the movement that has brought hundreds of thousands of residents of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory into the streets in protest in recent weeks. Dozens of participants sang hymns and lit candles in remembrance of protesters, one who fell after hanging a banner and at least one other, in an apparent suicide, who left a message on a wall asking others to keep up the fight. One of the organizers said there were lawyers, counsellors and psychiatrists available for consultation at the event. "Remember you are not alone," the man said. For weeks, protesters have held demonstrations against

the government's attempt to change extradition laws to allow suspects to be sent to China for trial.

10 killed as passenger train hits freight train in Pakistan

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani government official says a passenger train has rammed into freight train in the southern city of Rahim Yar Khan, killing 10 people and injuring 64 others. Senior government official Jamil Ahmed says an emergency at hospitals has been declared after Thursday's crash. He says the dead and injured persons are being transported to different hospitals. He says the freight train was stationary when the speeding passenger train hit it in Rahim Yar Khan, a main city in eastern Punjab province.

Seoul wants Washington to mediate in trade spat with Tokyo

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea is requesting the United States mediate in a bitter diplomatic row with Japan over Tokyo's moves to tighten controls on high-tech exports to its neighboring U.S. ally. South Korea said Thursday its Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha discussed the issue with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo by phone and conveyed Seoul's view that Japan's "undesirable" trade curbs could disrupt global supply chains and hurt trilateral cooperation among the countries. The ministry says Pompeo expressed an "understanding" of South Korea's position and agreed to help facilitate communication through diplomatic channels among Washington, Seoul and Tokyo. Kim Hyun-chong, deputy chief of South Korea's presidential National Security Office, arrived in Washington on Wednesday and told reporters he would discuss the trade spat with Japan with U.S. officials.

DNA tests confirm identity of 1st Filipino suicide attacker

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—DNA tests have confirmed the identity of the first known Filipino suicide bomber in the country's south, an alarming milestone that underscores the need for public vigilance and a modernized armed forces, officials said Wednesday.

Two attackers carrying explosives killed three soldiers, two villagers and themselves and wounded 22 others in a June 28 attack on an army camp in Sulu province's Indanan town. The Islamic State group said the attackers were its fighters, but local police played down the claim.

Philippine police and military officials said at a news conference that tissues taken from the remains of one of the attackers, identified by his family as Norman Lasuca, matched those of his mother, Vilman Lasuca, and a brother in police DNA tests. Efforts to identify the second attacker were continuing.

"One of the biggest implications if we already have a suicide bombing case in the Philippines is that this should open a new mindset that we now have a different security environment in our country," said military spokesman Brig. Gen. Edgar Arevalo.

Arevalo called for greater public vigilance and stressed the need for a more modern and better-equipped armed forces to fight "a rising level of terrorism."

Regional military commander Lt. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said that the probability of more suicide attacks was high, and that the military has heightened surveillance and was trying to check if the Abu Sayyaf militant group was training more local would-be suicide bombers.

Two other suicide bombings in the country's south last year and in January have been blamed by Philippine authorities on foreign militants,

who were reportedly harbored by Abu Sayyaf commander Hajan Sawadjaan in his jungle encampments in Sulu.

Sobejana has said Lasuca left his family in 2014 and joined the group of Sawadjaan, who is believed to have been recognized by the Islamic State group as its leader in the southern Philippines.

According to military officials, one of the attackers tried to enter the army camp in Indanan, where a large number of newly arrived combat troops was based, and set off his explosive when he was stopped at the gate. The second militant dashed into the camp and managed to detonate his bomb near a parking lot while yelling "Allahu akbar," or God is great, despite being shot by soldiers.

Military officials could not provide other details about Lasuca's background. An anti-terrorism officer told The As-

sociated Press that he was one of several children of a poor welder who was recruited as a member of an urban-based militant unit under Sawadjaan. He dropped out of school early due to poverty, said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the matter publicly.

Battle setbacks have reduced the number of Abu Sayyaf fighters to less than 400 but they have remained a national security threat. They have largely thrived on ransom kidnappings and extortion, although defense officials say they may have received foreign funds, including from the Islamic State group, to finance attacks.

The brutal group has been blacklisted as a terrorist organization by the United States and the Philippines for bombings, ransom kidnappings and beheadings during decades of a Muslim separatist rebellion.

World

UK ambassador to US quits after leaked cables enrage Trump

LONDON (AP)—Britain's ambassador to the United States resigned Wednesday after being branded a fool and made a diplomatic nobody by President Donald Trump following the leak of the envoy's unflattering opinions about the U.S. administration.

Storm clouds gathered over the trans-Atlantic relationship as veteran diplomat Kim Darroch said he could no longer do his job in Washington after Trump cut off all contact with the representative of one of America's closest allies.

The break in relations followed a British newspaper's publication Sunday of leaked documents that revealed the ambassador's dim view of Trump's administration, which Darroch described as dysfunctional, inept and chaotic.

"The current situation is making it impossible for me to carry out my role as I would like," Darroch said in his resignation letter. He had been due to leave his post at the end of the year.

In the leaked documents, he called the Trump administration's policy toward Iran "incoherent," said the president might be indebted to "dodgy Russians" and raised doubts about whether the White House "will ever look competent."

"We don't really believe this administration is going to become substantially more normal; less dysfunctional; less unpredictable; less faction riven; less diplomatically clumsy



AT
The British Embassy Residence in Washington, Wednesday, July 10, 2019.

since 2016; the leaked cables covered a period from 2017 to recent weeks.

British officials are hunting for the culprit behind the leak, which was both an embarrassment to May's government and a major breach of diplomatic security.

"We will pursue the culprit with all the means at our disposal," Foreign Office chief Simon McDonald told a committee of lawmakers, adding that police were involved in the investigation.

McDonald said it was "vitally important" that ambassadors were able to speak candidly in private and that it was the first time in his 37-year career that a head of state had refused to work with a British ambassador.

But he said the trans-Atlantic relationship was "so deep and so wide that it will withstand any individual squall." He also said he feared there might be more leaks of sensitive government documents.

The U.S. State Department said in a statement that "the United States and the United Kingdom share a bond that is bigger than any individual, and we look forward to continuing that partnership. We remain committed to the U.S.-UK Special Relationship and our shared global agenda."

Like his predecessors, Darroch was a prominent figure in Washington, meeting frequently with high-level U.S. officials and hosting parties at the stately British Embassy.

and inept," one missive said.

Prime Minister Theresa May and other British politicians praised Darroch, condemned the leak—and criticized Trump's intemperate comments, if only implicitly. Pointedly, however, Boris Johnson, considered the front-runner to replace May as prime minister, did not defend the ambassador after Trump's tirade.

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, Johnson's rival for the post, said Wednesday it was

"absolutely essential that when our diplomats do their job all over the world ... we defend them."

"We had a fine diplomat who was just doing what he should have been doing—giving a frank assessment, a personal assessment of the political situation in the country that he was posted (to)—and that's why I defended him," he told reporters. "And I think we all should."

Speaking at a conference on media freedom, Hunt also

criticized Trump's verbal attacks on journalists.

"I wouldn't use the language President Trump used, and I wouldn't agree with it," he said. "We have to remember that what we say can have an impact in other countries where they can't take press freedom for granted."

Darroch announced his decision the morning after a televised Conservative leadership debate between Hunt and Johnson. During the debate, Hunt vowed to keep Darroch in the post, but Johnson—his predecessor as foreign secretary—notably did not support the British envoy.

"I think it's very important we should have a close part-

nership, a close friendship with the United States," said Johnson, whom Trump has praised in the past.

Emily Thornberry, the spokeswoman on foreign affairs for the main opposition Labour Party, said Darroch "has been bullied out of his job, because of Donald Trump's tantrums and Boris Johnson's pathetic lick-spittle response."

Darroch's forthright, unfiltered views on the U.S. administration—meant for a limited audience and discreet review—appeared in the leaked documents published by Britain's Mail on Sunday newspaper.

Darroch had served as Britain's envoy to Washington

US urges world powers to reject Iran's 'nuclear extortion'

VIENNA (AP)—The United States admonished world powers seeking to preserve a deal with Iran on its atomic program on Wednesday not to give in to "nuclear extortion" from Tehran, which has breached the pact's limitations in recent days in an attempt to get them to provide economic incentives to offset American sanctions.

The U.S. requested the special board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency after Iran announced last week that it had exceeded the amount of low-enriched uranium it is allowed to stockpile under limitations set in the 2015 nuclear deal. Since then, it also announced it has started enriching uranium past the 3.67% purity allowed, to 4.5%, and IAEA inspectors verified both developments.

By doing so, Tehran hopes to increase the pressure on the remaining members of the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, to provide

economic relief for American sanctions. It has set an early September deadline until it pushes limits further.

Jackie Wolcott, the U.S. ambassador to international organizations in Vienna, told Iran and others in the room that Washington was open to "negotiation without preconditions" on a new nuclear deal, and that "the only path to sanctions relief is through such negotiations, not nuclear extortion."

"We are committed to denying Iran the benefits it seeks from these most recent provocations," she said. "It is imperative that this misbehavior not be rewarded, for if it is, Iran's demands and provocations will only escalate."

U.S. President Donald Trump underscored the comments later, tweeting that the nuclear deal was "terrible" and threatened that "sanctions will soon be increased, substantially!" Trump has long rejected the deal, saying it was too generous to Tehran and did not address its involve-

ment in regional conflicts.

Russian delegate Mikhail Ulyanov fired back at the meeting that the U.S. could not both reject the deal and call for Iran's full implementation of it.

"Although for some reason they only refer to Tehran, in fact the United States, who are refusing to fulfill its own obligations under the nuclear deal, lost any right to demand this from others," he said.

Iran's representative, Kazem Gharib Abadi, stressed Iran's nuclear program was for "peaceful purposes" and said his country was prepared to resume full implementation of the JCPOA, "commensurate with the implementation of the commitments by all participants."

At the same time he slammed the U.S. decision to withdraw from the deal and reinstate sanctions, saying it was "neither legitimate nor legal" and should not be accepted by the international community.

Thousands of endangered animals seized in customs operation

PARIS (AP)—Police and customs officials have carried out the most widespread anti-wildlife-trafficking operation ever in a joint global operation that's led to the seizure of thousands of endangered animals and the arrest of nearly 600 suspects.

The World Customs Organization and Interpol said Wednesday that in June they conducted nearly 2,000 seizures in a historic joint-operation that helped local authorities round up nearly 10,000 live turtles and tortoises, nearly 1,500 live reptiles, 23 live apes, 30 live big cats, hundreds of pieces of elephant tusk, half a ton of ivory and five rhino horns.

"It's landmark. It's the first time such a large joint network has been mobilized—across 109 countries," Interpol's wildlife expert Henri Fournel

told The Associated Press.

"What we lacked in tackling wildlife crime was a concerted network and this is what we have now," he added.

Interpol released searing images from the global trafficking haul: Thousands of protected tortoises crawling over each other in a dark container in Kazakhstan; an inquisitive-looking white tiger cub concealed in a pick-up in Mexico; and elephant tusks lined up symmetrically on the ground in Kenya.

In a statement, Interpol Secretary General Juergen Stock said: "Wildlife crime not only strips our environment of its resources, it also has an impact through the associated violence, money laundering and fraud." The illegal wildlife trade is a multibillion dollar industry, authorities say.

Operation Thunderball, which operated out of Interpol's innovation complex in Singapore, led to the arrest of 582 suspects, it said.

Among the discoveries was a ray of hope that some trafficking is slowing: The WCO said it noted slight declines in the seizures of certain species, "a sign that continued enforcement efforts are bearing fruit."

Conservations groups globally have applauded the anti-trafficking push.

"This massive disruption of criminal networks is key to saving endangered wildlife across the globe," the Wildlife Conservation Society said in a statement.

It warned, however, that seizures and arrests are only a first step, and that "governments now must follow up with strong, meaningful prosecutions."

Focus



AP
In this Tuesday, July 9, 2019, file photo, notices campaigning for a boycott of Japanese-made products are displayed at a store in Seoul, South Korea. South Koreans believe Japan still hasn't fully acknowledged responsibility for atrocities committed during its 1910-45 colonial occupation of Korea. Thousands of South Koreans have signed petitions posted on the presidential office's website that call for boycotting Japanese products and travel to Japan. The signs read: "We don't sell Japanese products."

Tensions

over history, North keep Japan, South Korea at odds

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Japan and South Korea, two major U.S. allies, are again at odds, this time over Tokyo's decision to tighten controls on exports of sensitive materials that are mainly used in computer chips and display screens used in TVs and smartphones. The tensions reflect animosities that have persisted for decades.

WHAT JAPAN SAYS: As of July 4, the Japanese government tightened the approval process for shipments of photoresists and other sensitive materials. They are now subject to a case-by-case approval process that can take up to 90 days because Japan's trade ministry said the countries' "relationship of trust," including export controls, had been "significantly undermined." It also said it had found some sensitive items were shipped to South Korea "with inadequate management by companies." Earlier, Japanese Prime

Minister Shinzo Abe and other officials cited South Korea's stance on compensation for forcing Koreans to work as laborers before and during World War II as a sign it could not be trusted. Officials continue to hint at problems without providing specifics. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his conservative aides have hinted at possible South Korean illegal transfers of sensitive materials to North Korea, and they now say South Korea has failed to respond to requests for talks about problems with export controls.

WHAT SOUTH KOREA SAYS: In Seoul, President Moon Jae-in on Wednesday said his government was committed to resolving the matter diplomatically and urged Japan to refrain from pushing the situation to a "dead-end street." He spoke after South Korean officials urged Japan to drop the plan to further tighten export controls on fluorinated polyimide, resist, and hydrogen fluoride and related technologies, telling a World

Trade Organization meeting in Geneva that the Japanese measures would affect electronics products worldwide. South Korean officials say controls on chemicals subject to the tightened rules have not been violated.

THE BACKDROP: Japan and South Korea, both important hosts for U.S. military bases in East Asia, have been bickering for years over a territorial dispute and over South Korean demands for more contrition and compensation from Japan for its use of forced labor and recruitment of Korean women for military brothels during the Japanese occupation of the Korean peninsula in the early 20th century. The two sides squabbled in December over a South Korean warship's alleged radar lock on to a Japanese patrol aircraft. That raised suspicions in Japan because a North Korean boat was next to the South Korean warship at the time. The latest flare-up followed South Korean court rulings ordering major Japanese corporation Nippon Steel

& Sumitomo Metal Corp. to compensate South Korean plaintiffs for forced labor during World War II. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries has refused a South Korean Supreme Court order to compensate 10 Koreans for forced labor. Japan insists all compensation issues were settled when the two countries normalized relations under the 1965 treaty. Japan says South Korea is violating an international pledge.

IMMEDIATE IMPLICATIONS OF JAPAN'S TIGHTER CONTROLS: Japan is a major supplier of materials used to make the computer chips that run most devices, including Apple iPhones and laptop computers. Analysts say that given a slowdown in demand for smartphones and for semiconductors overall, South Korean chipmakers Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix both have sufficient supplies of the materials for now. The greater fear is that Japan might expand the export controls to more products, increasing the potential for disruptions

to regional and global supply chains.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS: Japanese officials have not specified which companies they suspect of having mismanaged exports of sensitive materials. South Korea's trade ministry acknowledged Wednesday that from 2015 to March 2019 the government detected 156 cases of unauthorized exports of sensitive materials that could be used for military purposes. It was responding to a report by the Japanese network Fuji TV that cited government data. It said illegal shipments included thermos-cameras, carbon fibers, zirconium and sodium cyanide, among other items, and went to countries like China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Syria, Turkey and Sri Lanka. The ministry said exposure of the cases shows South Korea's monitoring system is working and that it's more transparent than Japan's. It was unclear if any cases involved Japanese imports or were the main reason

for Japan's decision to impose stricter controls on exports to South Korea.

POTENTIAL FOR RESOLVING THE ISSUES: Bridging the rift between the two countries appears to be a challenge. Many South Koreans believe Japan still hasn't fully acknowledged responsibility for atrocities committed during its 1910-45 colonial occupation of Korea. They question the legitimacy of agreements struck by past governments. Thousands of South Koreans have signed petitions posted on the presidential office's website that call for boycotting Japanese products and travel to Japan. Japanese have been seeking to put their wartime legacy behind them. That is especially true of Abe and his ultra-conservative backers in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, who have been for years trying to whitewash Japan's embarrassing wartime past and are now busy campaigning for a July 21 election for the Upper House of Parliament.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Woman throws snake at driver in carjacking

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP)—Police say a woman stole a vehicle after throwing a snake at the driver, then crashed through barricades set up for a pole-vaulting exhibition in South Carolina. In a statement, Greenville Police identified the suspect as 29-year-old Hilmary Moreno-Berrios. They she was hurt in Friday's crash and released from the hospital Monday. Authorities say Moreno-Berrios demanded a woman's keys and threw a live black snake at her. They say she then drove the stolen SUV with the snake still in it into barriers set up for the Liberty Bridge Jump-Off. Moreno-Berrios is charged with carjacking, malicious damage to property and five traffic violations. It wasn't known whether she had a lawyer to contact for comment on her behalf. Police say the snake wasn't venomous and was released in nearby woods.

Chicago police investigators confirm alligator in lagoon

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago police investigators have cracked the case: A 4-5 foot alligator is living in a lagoon at one of the city's most popular parks. Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi says Tuesday that investigators went to Humboldt Park Lagoon on the city's West Side and confirmed that the unusual resident is there as reported on social media. Officials couldn't say how the creature got there. City officials say alligator traps are being placed around the lagoon in hopes the animal will swim into one and be safely removed. Guglielmi says the animal was expected to be trapped "and relocated to a zoo for veterinary evaluation."

Driver escapes injury when saguaro cactus pierces windshield

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Arizona authorities say a driver escaped injury when his car's windshield was pierced by the trunk of a saguaro cactus during a wreck Wednesday on the outskirts of Tucson. Pima County sheriff's Deputy Daniel Jelineo said the black sports car struck the cactus while crossing a median. The broken-off cactus ended up partially inside the car, with the rest jutting over car's hood. Jelineo said deputies detained the driver for further investigation after observing signs and symptoms of impairment.

Minnesota woman who swims topless vows to return to beach

DULUTH, Minn. (AP)—A Minnesota woman who swims topless in Lake Superior says she won't be dissuaded by someone who called the police on her. Michelle Bennett was sunbathing topless on the beach in Duluth last month when a woman asked her to cover up, saying she was making the woman's children uncomfortable. Bennett refused, so the woman called the police. An officer told Bennett it was not a nude beach, to which Bennett replied that she was not nude—she was topless. The Minneapolis Star Tribune reports that Bennett has been swimming topless in Lake Superior for years and sees no reason why she has to cover up while men don't have to. She and the officer discussed Minnesota's indecent exposure law. Bennett did not receive a citation, but she did put on a shirt.

Swiss air force team apologizes for fly-by in wrong place

BERLIN (AP)—The commander of the Swiss air force's aerial display team has apologized after his unit performed a low-altitude pass over the wrong municipality. Residents of Langenbruck looked up in vain Saturday while expecting to see Switzerland's Patrouille Suisse squadron swoop by to mark the centenary of the death of local aviation pioneer Oskar Bider. The team flew over nearby Muemliswil instead.

Switzerland's Defense Ministry said Monday that the formation hadn't practiced the maneuver and got distracted by an unauthorized helicopter in the area. The ministry says the team leader spotted what he thought was a tent for the Langenbruck celebration that turned out to be for a yodeling festival in Muemliswil. The ministry said the Patrouille Suisse team's red and white F-5E Tiger II jets aren't equipped with GPS devices.

Patron tackles Australian robber with bar stool, pot plant

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—A patron at a hotel on Australia's Gold Coast has foiled a hold-up by attacking the robber with a bar stool and a pot plant. A video release by the Queensland police shows a hooded man enter the Mermaid Beach Hotel in the early hours of Friday morning and threaten a female employee with a machete. While the woman goes behind the counter, a 29-year-old patron picks up a bar stool and throws it at the man, followed by a pot plant. A short time later the robber flees the hotel, chased by the patron. Outside the hotel, the patron tackled the robber, forcing him to drop his cash. The robber managed to escape and is still at large.

Maine couple buys home that inspired 'The Conjuring'

HARRISVILLE, R.I. (AP)—A Maine couple has bought a Rhode Island farmhouse that inspired the horror movie "The Conjuring." Cory Heinzen tells the Sun Journal in Maine that he's heard doors opening, footsteps and knocks. He said the house in Harrisville, Rhode Island, is "very busy." The movie is based on the story of a family that lived in the farmhouse in the 1970s. The previous owners said the 1736 farmhouse was indeed haunted—by trespassers hoping to get a glimpse thanks to the 2013 movie. Heinzen, of Mexico, Maine, said he became interested in the paranormal while bivouacking at a Civil War battlefield and hearing screams and cannons. He and his wife bought the Rhode Island home last month and hope to open it to visitors and investigators later this year.

Albuquerque blocks homemade skate ramp made from man's ashes

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A homemade skate ramp made in part from ashes of a man shot and killed at an Albuquerque skate park is now blocked off. KOAT-TV reports the city of Albuquerque this week temporarily blocked off access to the memorial because it was built without permission from officials. Albuquerque Parks and Recreation director Dave Simon says nothing can be constructed on city property without prior authorization. City officials say they want to assess the ramp for safety and structural integrity. Cody Raver was shot and killed at Los Altos skate park in April. Friends of Raver built the ramp at Los Altos skate park in his honor and mixed some of Raver's ashes in with the cement.

Armored truck's cash rains on Atlanta interstate

ATLANTA (AP)—Drivers on Atlanta's busy perimeter highway were bombarded by flying money after a door swung open on an armored truck. WSB Radio reports that the rain of cash prompted a dozen or more drivers to pull over on I-285 near Ashford-Dunwoody Road. A video shows people spilling out of their cars to scoop up the bills in traffic lanes. Amazingly, no one was hurt. By the time police arrived, the opportunists had driven off with the money. Dunwoody Police Sgt. Robert Parsons told the radio station that taking the money off the road is most certainly a crime. They're investigating to see how much is missing. Parsons says they're going to need that cash back.

Science & Technology

UK health care service to use Alexa to give medical advice

LONDON (AP)—Alexa will see you now.

Britain's health care service is teaming up with Amazon's digital voice assistant to help answer medical queries with advice from the service's official website. Critics, however, warn about risks to data privacy.

The British government said Wednesday that the system will help people get quick and accurate health information. It will be especially useful for senior citizens, blind people and others who find it hard to access the internet while also easing pressure on doctors.

Using Amazon's algorithms, Alexa can answer voice questions from users about common maladies such as the flu or chickenpox with information verified by the National Health Service.

It's part of the British government's long-term modernization plan to provide more digital health services.

"We want to empower every patient to take better



In this Monday, Aug. 7, 2017 file photo, an Amazon Alexa display is seen at a store in Hialeah, Fla.

control of their health care," said Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

Privacy campaigners said that while making it easier for people to access reliable medical advice was a step in the right direction, they were concerned about the partnership and its implications.

"Amazon is a company with a worrying track re-

cord when it comes to the way they handle their users' data," said Eva Blum-Dumontet, a researcher at Privacy International. "Our medical information is often the most sensitive data there is about us and a lot can be inferred from the questions we ask and the searches we make when we have health concerns."

TECH Q&A: What you can do when Windows 7 is obsolete

The pending end of Microsoft security updates for Windows 7, scheduled for Jan. 14, 2020, has led some readers to ask about alternatives to its successor, Windows 10.

Here is what you could do:

■ Switch to Windows 8.1 (about \$36 online), which will receive security updates until Jan. 10, 2023. But many Windows 7 users won't like Windows 8.1, which was designed for use with a touch screen. It can be used with a keyboard (see tinyurl.com/y2u6qjsa), but it is not convenient.

■ Buy an Apple computer with the macOS operating system. The transition will be relatively easy. But there is less software written for Macs than for PCs, because fewer people use them. (The Mac operating system has a 12% worldwide market share, compared to 75% for Windows.) Price is also an issue. New Macs start at \$1,000 while new PCs start at \$250.

■ Switch to a lesser-known operating system, such as Linux (1.6% market share, runs on PCs) or Chrome (1.2% market share, runs only on computers called Chromebooks.) Both will require some time to learn, and aren't well-suited to casual PC users.

Here's what to avoid:

■ Don't use Windows 7 after January. Don't use any earlier version of Windows. Without Microsoft security updates, they're vulnerable

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



to hacking.

Here is what I recommend:
■ Get Windows 10, which is a lot like Windows 7. Check your PC manufacturer's website to learn if it be upgraded, or if you need a new one.

Q: I access Comcast e-mail via Microsoft Outlook on my PC. Twice in the last couple of years, I've had a large number of stored e-mails disappear from my account for no reason. Comcast said it happened because I didn't access my e-mail account often enough—they told me to log in to my e-mail at least once every three months to prevent e-mail deletion. What should I do?

A: You are not the only Comcast customer with a disappearing e-mail problem. Over the last several months, many users have reported similar situations (see tinyurl.com/y6s9y7mg and tinyurl.com/y5nabj2), but there has been no good explanation of the problem.

For example, the explanation you were given—that you didn't log into Comcast's

mail server often enough—doesn't make sense. Your Outlook program logs into their mail server every time you read your e-mail.

I suggest you get a different e-mail provider (such as Google's Gmail, Yahoo Mail or Microsoft's Outlook.com). You can do that while still buying internet access service from Comcast. (To add a new e-mail address to Outlook, see tinyurl.com/y487y2dm).

Q: I use the Windows 10 Edge browser, and it keeps losing some of my "favorites" (more commonly known as bookmarks.) Why is this happening?

A: This has been a longtime problem with Microsoft's Edge browser. There doesn't appear to be a solution except to continuously backup and restore your favorites (see tinyurl.com/y4n8qhb and tinyurl.com/yxpf4zz9). Microsoft has said it is redesigning Edge. But rather than wait, try a different browser, such as Google Chrome (see tinyurl.com/y4hebmot) or Mozilla Firefox (see tinyurl.com/bxsx3kt).

Life & Style

We have a wiener! Joey Chestnut eats 71 hot dogs for title

NEW YORK (AP)—Joey “Jaws” Chestnut ate 71 wieners and buns to secure his 12th title at Nathan’s Famous annual July Fourth hot dog eating contest on Thursday, just a few hot dogs shy of breaking the record he set last year.

In front of a crowd of fans and facing 17 opponents, the California native far exceeded his nearest competitors, but didn’t quite make or pass the 74-dog mark he reached in 2018.

When asked how he felt after the contest, Chestnut, 35, said, “I feel like I should eat a couple more.”

“I knew it was going to be close. I was trying hard and I was overstuffing my mouth and it wasn’t going down,” he said. “I just needed to find a

way to move a little bit faster. I think it’s getting harder the older I get.”

Miki Sudo won the women’s competition by chomping down 31 hot dogs.

The 33-year-old fell short of her total last year of 37 frankfurters but earned her sixth consecutive title by easily beating runner-up Michelle Lesco, who wolfed down 26 hot dogs.

Like Chestnut, she expressed some disappointment in not eating more.

“It wasn’t my best number, the numbers were pretty low across the board. I don’t know if it was the heat, but I really can’t complain. I wasn’t feeling in my best shape so I’m just glad that it was enough to



AP
Joey Chestnut reacts after winning the men’s competition of Nathan’s Famous July Fourth hot dog eating contest, Thursday, July 4, 2019, in New York’s Coney Island.

treme training regimens.

“It’s not something that there’s books written about,” Chestnut says in the film, which shows him lifting his head up and down with a weight dangling from his mouth. “There’s not trainers. Everything’s trial and error.”

Kobayashi no longer takes part in the event.

Spectator George Cartolano, 40, said his favorite part of the contest was “watching them try not to regurgitate.”

Elle Marks, 27, said she likes Chestnut because he’s relatable. “He’s a normal guy who just happens to be able to eat 74 hot dogs,” she said.

Chestnut’s next meal will probably be a “salad” and “a lot of liquid,” he said. But he’ll be back next year for the franks.

“As long as I’m healthy, as long as I’m happy and competitive, you can count me in,” he said.

‘The Lion King’ cast talks reimagining the Disney classic

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Disney’s “The Lion King” has received no shortage of remakes and spinoffs in the years since its original 1994 release. Now, as the film reaches its silver anniversary, Disney delivers a new take on the animated musical.

Cast and crew gathered in Hollywood for “The Lion King” world premiere Tuesday night, and discussed reimagining the classic.

“I think I’m really lucky, because I feel like a lot of the people who are experiencing it don’t remember the first one,” joked Donald Glover, who voices adult Simba.

“(The original film) is such a big part of who I was,” Glover continued, adding he felt the weight of his role especially during his duet of “Can You Feel the Love Tonight?” with co-star Beyoncé.

“Tackling it was really just trying to make the song feel as emotional as it was before,” he said.

While the remake pays homage to the source material, a new approach allowed for more creative liberties than its predecessor, many cast and crew noted.

Hans Zimmer, who com-



AP
This image released by Disney shows Nala, voiced by Beyoncé Knowles-Carter, left, and Simba, voiced by Donald Glover in a scene from “The Lion King.”

posed the original film’s underscore, said he was excited to produce new compositions as well as revamp original music cues.

“This time, I could breathe,” he said, explaining that some of his music was performed too fast the first time around. “I could let them play properly. I could do things with them that I never did before.”

Composer Lebo M. said the remake will feature tunes from the original, and a host of new songs, as well as the anthem “He Lives in You,” which debuted in the stage

production.

“We wrote it originally for the movie 25 years ago, and it made its mark on Broadway and around the world, and it’s now a very special version in this movie soundtrack,” he said. “The music department, we went crazy.”

At times, so did the cast.

Actor Billy Eichner, who voices Timon, said director Jon Favreau (who also helmed Disney’s recent “The Jungle Book”) allowed him to record his voiceovers alongside his co-star Seth Rogen, the voice of Pumbaa. Most voice actors do the job solo.

Texas woman arrested in 1984 shooting death of husband

CENTERVILLE, Texas (AP)—A Texas sheriff says a reality-based detective show played a role in the recent arrest of an 84-year-old woman in the 1984 shooting death of her husband.

Leon County Sheriff Kevin Ellis said Wednesday that the arrest last week of Norma Allbritton was aided by the program “Cold Justice,” which contributed its own investiga-

tor, a retired district attorney and other expertise.

The death of Johnnie Allbritton in the couple’s home near Buffalo was revisited in 2015 by sheriff’s investiga-

tors and some evidence was later forwarded to the program. Buffalo is about 100 miles (160 kilometers)



Allbritton

She bonded out of jail July 3. A message left Wednesday for her attorney wasn’t immediately returned.

pull off a sixth belt,” she said.

Sonya “The Black Widow” Thomas holds the all-time women’s record of 45 hot dogs in 10 minutes.

Chestnut and Sudo will each take home \$10,000.

Spectators with foam hot dog hats, plastic noisemakers and homemade signs descended on Coney Island’s famed boardwalk for the contest.

The annual eat-off started in 1972, though the company has long promoted the event with a theatrical backstory that places its start date in 1916.

Chestnut has only lost once since 2007, when he pulled ahead of longtime foe Takeru Kobayashi for the first time. An ESPN documentary released Tuesday features the two former rivals and their ex-

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

†Nieves Lizama Babauta

We, the family of **†Nieves Lizama Babauta** give our praise to God and rejoice that our loved one now rests in the love and peace of His embrace.

Words cannot adequately express our profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our family and friends for all the kind words of comfort and for taking the time to join us in the Celebration of the Eucharist in honor of our beloved mother and grandmother, **†Nieves Lizama Babauta**. Your prayers, love, support and condolences have helped us tremendously during this most difficult time, giving us courage and strength to accept the will of God no matter how painful and difficult. Know that you are treasured in our hearts and will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank you & Dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase
Jacqueline, Michael, Christine & Families

Spanish judge rules 43-year-old man is son of Julio Iglesias

Amal Clooney faults 'collective shrug' over slain journalist

LONDON (AP)—Human rights lawyer Amal Clooney accused world leaders Wednesday of failing to protect journalists and responding with “a collective shrug” over the slaying of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi.

Clooney, the British government’s envoy on media freedom, said at a conference on press freedom that “journalists are under attack like never before,” not just while covering wars but for exposing crime and corruption.

“The vast majority of these murders go unpunished,” she said, adding that “world leaders responded with little more than a collective shrug” to Khashoggi’s killing by agents close to the Saudi crown prince.

The Washington Post columnist was killed inside Saudi Arabia’s Consulate in Istanbul last year.

According to the United Nations cultural body UNESCO, 99 media workers were killed worldwide in 2018.

The London conference where Clooney spoke was called by U.K. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt and Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland with the aim of improving protection for journalists around the world.

The gathering announced

the founding of a global fund to provide training, legal support and other resources for journalists in danger zones, administered by the U.N. cultural body. It’s unclear how much money the fund will have; Britain committed 3 million pounds (\$3.8 million) and Canada 1 million Canadian dollars (\$760,000).

Politicians, officials, activists and journalists from more than 100 countries attended the two-day meeting, but two Russian news outlets were banned.

The British government said Russian news agency Sputnik and state-owned TV network RT were excluded because of their alleged “active role in spreading disinformation.”

RT was censured last year by Britain’s broadcast regulator for breaking U.K. impartiality rules in its coverage of the poisoning of a Russian ex-spy in England.

RT, formerly known as Russia Today, said “it takes a particular brand of hypocrisy to advocate for freedom of press while banning inconvenient voices and slandering alternative media.”

Organizers did not release



Clooney

a full list of conference participants but said delegations were expected from nations with dire press freedom records, such as Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Britain’s Hunt told the attendees that “media freedom is not a Western value but a universal value.”

“The strongest safeguard against the dark side of power is accountability and scrutiny,” he said.

Hunt said countries that silenced journalists and freedom of the press must be made to pay a “diplomatic price.” He singled out China, which routinely censors the internet, as an example of a country where “the situation continues to deteriorate.”

Hunt also criticized Donald Trump’s verbal attacks on journalists, whom the U.S. president has branded enemies of the people.

“I wouldn’t use the language President Trump used, and I wouldn’t agree with it,” he said. “We have to remember that what we say can have an impact in other countries where they can’t take press freedom for granted.”

MADRID (AP)—A judge in Spain has found there is sufficient evidence to establish that a 43-year-old man is the biological son of Julio Iglesias even though the singer refused to have a DNA test.

The judge, in fact, cited Iglesias’ refusal to submit to genetic testing as part of the evidence that persuaded him to rule in favor of Javier Sán-

chez in his paternity suit against the 75-year-old crooner.

The judge’s ruling issued Wednesday said “there existed contacts and a relationship between the mother of (Sánchez and Iglesias) near the date of conception.”

Sánchez says his mother,



Iglesias

María Edite Santos, gave birth to him in 1975 exactly nine months after she met Iglesias at a party.

Iglesias’ lawyers say they will appeal the decision.

Any possible financial compensation for Sánchez would be determined at a separate trial.

Jada Pinkett Smith and Will Smith launch media venture

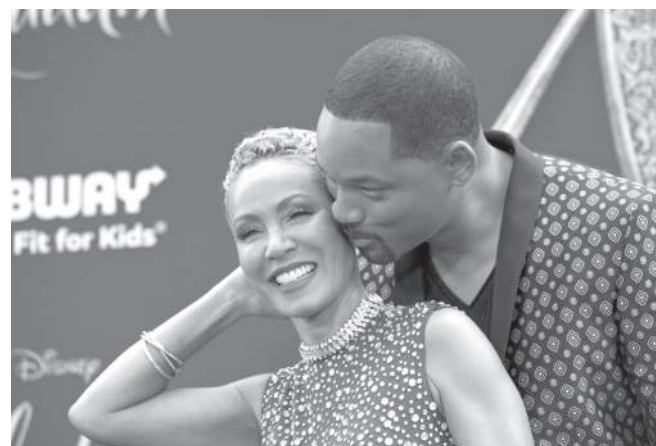
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jada Pinkett Smith and Will Smith are looking to expand their brands under a new corporate umbrella.

The Hollywood power couple on Wednesday announced the launch of a new media venture.

According to a statement, Westbrook Inc. will be a cross-platform holding company “formed to execute the Smith family’s global content and commerce business strategy.”

In a statement, the couple said Westbrook’s mission is “to spread positive ideas, art and products that entertain and empower the greatest number of lives.”

Westbrook Studios will serve as the studio home to all new premium TV and motion picture projects. It currently serves “Red Table Talk,” the Facebook Watch series featuring Pinkett Smith, Willow Smith and Adri-



AP

In this May 21, 2019 file photo, Will Smith, right, kisses Jada Pinkett Smith as they arrive at the premiere of “Aladdin” at the El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles.

enne Banfield-Norris.

The company will also de-

velop projects as starring vehicles for Will Smith.

EU fines Hello Kitty owner \$7 million in antitrust ruling

BRUSSELS (AP)—European Union authorities on Tuesday fined the Japanese company behind Hello Kitty for restricting cross-border online sales of toys, mugs, bags and other products featuring the cartoon cat girl.

The EU’s antitrust commissioner, Margrethe Vestager, said that Sanrio Co. was fined 6.2 million euros (\$7 million) because the company violated the bloc’s competition rules with licensing agreements that banned traders from selling merchandise in different

countries in the bloc.

The commission found Sanrio’s illegal practices were in force for 11 years until December.

Restricting cross-border sales “leads to less choice and potentially higher prices for consumers and is against EU antitrust rules,” Vestager said.

EU authorities launched their investigation in 2017, alongside probes into Nike and Universal Studios, as they ratcheted up scrutiny of e-commerce as part of efforts to foster a “digital single market.”

3 vehicles owned by Elvis Presley going up for auction

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elvis Presley fans can take to the road in his personal stretch limousine, on his last motorcycle or in a pickup truck if they have the money, an auction house announced Wednesday.

Kruse GWS Auctions said the items will be part of its Artifacts of Hollywood auction on Aug. 31.

Presley drove the white-on-white 1973 Lincoln Continental stretch many times around Memphis, Tennessee, Kruse said. It features an old-school TV and other amenities. There are photos showing “the King” driving the car he was in when he stopped at a car accident in Memphis in 1976.

The auction house said a

1976 Harley Davidson FLH 1200 Electra Glide motorcycle was the last motorcycle Presley ever purchased. He transported it from California to Memphis and sold it 90 days before he died in 1977 at age 42. The Harley has been on display at the Pioneer Auto Museum in Murdo, South Da-

kota, since the late 1980s.

The third Presley vehicle is one of three GMC pickups that Presley purchased in 1967 for his Circle G Ranch in Mississippi. Two years later, his father, Vernon, sold them back to the same dealership, the auction house said. It has undergone a total restoration.

Grandma-to-be can't muster enthusiasm she wants to feel

DEAR ABBY: I own a small retail shop. One of my employees (I'll call her Sara) has been with us for a number of years. Until recently she's been a stellar employee. She has been through several traumas during the past year, including the death of her father, unexpected injuries and medical bills, and finding out that her husband had molested her teenage daughter and other girls as well. It has been enough to drive anyone over the edge of emotional stability, and she has been noticeably struggling.

Sara has seen a doctor and is seeing a therapist for this, but she's still having a difficult time. These things don't heal overnight. I understand that.

Brick-and-mortar retail pretty much runs on presenting a cheerful face, happily engaging with customers and answering their questions—something Sara has been emotionally unable to do. Customers have begun complaining to me about her moodiness and saying she has been ignoring them. I've talked to her about this a couple of times now, and each time she says she'll do better, but she hasn't.

Abby, she's been through so much, I'm reluctant to add to her trauma by letting her go, but I feel I'm being backed into a corner here. Is there a solution I'm not seeing or something I can say that will help resolve this without having to let her go? There isn't any work currently available that doesn't require customer interaction, or else I'd ask her to do that.

BAD FOR BUSINESS

DEAR B.F.B.: You are a caring employer—more than most would be, considering the shape that retail is in these days. Talk to Sara again. Explain that you are receiving complaints from customers and what they have been saying. Give her another chance to improve. If one of your other employees can cover for Sara for a week or two, let Sara have a brief leave of absence to regroup. However, if the complaints persist, let her go, because what's going on isn't about her or you, it's about the health of your business.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is 67 and at least 45 pounds overweight. His breasts could fill a C-cup bra, and his belly looks nine months pregnant. Problem is, he wears running shorts around the house and no shirt. Everything hangs out regardless of whether we're alone or have family visiting. It's embarrassing.

When I ask him to dress or at least put on a shirt, he says it's his home, he can dress any way he wants, and if someone disapproves, they can leave. That's exactly what I am ready to do. I am disgusted seeing him look like this. Also, when we are alone, he tends to skinny dip in our swimming pool.

I'm afraid our 18-year marriage is over. For the last five years we have lived like roommates with separate bedrooms. Do you agree I should leave? He flat-out refuses any

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



counseling for us.

LOOKING THE OTHER WAY

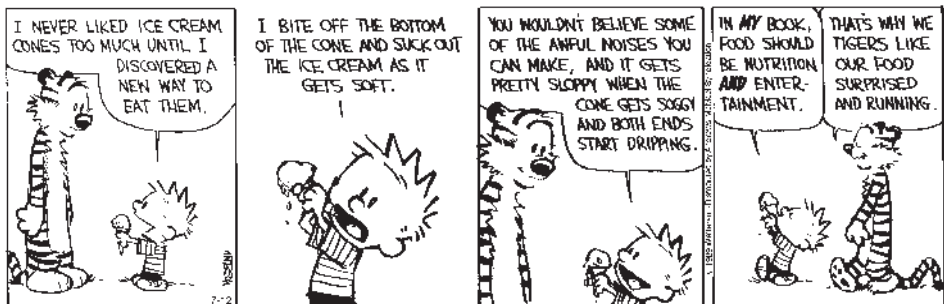
DEAR LOOKING: You are asking me a question I can't answer for you. Because your husband refuses counseling doesn't mean you couldn't benefit from talking to someone, in light of the fact that you are contemplating such a life-changing decision. Please go, because the answer to your question lies within yourself.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



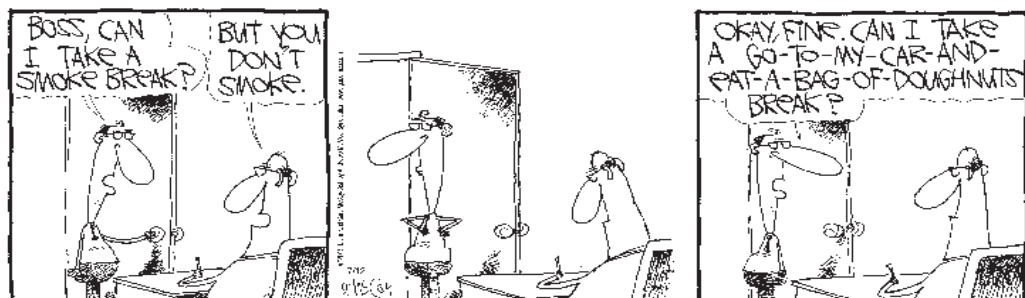
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hosp. section
4 Biblical pronoun
8 Rolling stone's lack
12 Homer's cry
13 Michele's movie pal
14 Flightless birds
15 French brandy
17 Shrek, for one
18 Not on the road
19 Witnessed
21 Scale note
22 "Yeah, right!"
26 Track horse
29 Part of TNT
30 "Kidding!"
31 Villain in "Wonder Woman"
32 Pint-sized
33 Hefty hom
34 PC screen type

DOWN

35 Upper limit
36 President Monroe
37 "The Gift of the Magi" author
39 Fib
40 PC key
41 Drink
45 Duelist
48 Have debts
50 During revelry
52 Roofing goo
53 Thanks-giving veggies
54 Caustic cleaners

16 Rx amounts
20 Sashimi fish
23 "E pluribus"
24 Judicial garb
25 LAX guesses
26 — Alto
27 Foot part
28 Give up
29 Cowboy moniker
32 "Totally awesome!"
33 Cardio-boxing routine
35 "— Miniver"
36 Carter and Choo
38 Dweebs
39 Feudal superior
42 Division word
43 Endure
44 Literary Jane
45 Inlet
46 Ms. Thurman
47 Brink
49 Sardonic

Solution time: 25 mins.

E	L	S	A	G	O	U	T	A	P
M	I	T	T	R	U	S	E	A	I
O	Y	T	R	A	I	N	S	I	A
S	N	E	A	K	Y	—	A	L	I
G	O	T	T	I	G	O	C	P	A
P	E	W	E	V	A	L	I	P	
A	R	O	N	E	D	B	E	T	A
I	U	B	E	H	B	A			
C	H	I	I	A	H	O	R	D	E
R	A	M	—	I	K	I	—	O	R
U	K	E	O	L	I	N	A	T	E
X	E	D	R	E	N	D	S	T	O

Yesterday's answer 7-12

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mala-lala Yousafzai, 22; Kimberly Perry, 36; Topher Grace, 41; Steve Howey, 42.

Happy Birthday: Keep doing what you are doing until you have perfected your skills or reached the goal you've been eyeing for some time. This is a year of perpetual motion, geared toward gaining the satisfaction that comes with confidence. You are preparing for something that is yet to come. Enjoy the ride, and be open to what lies ahead. Your numbers are 6, 10, 19, 26, 31, 37, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look over your personal financial position before you make a donation or spend on something you don't really need. Look for an opportunity that is conducive to financial gain, not excess. Loss is likely if you don't protect your possessions. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take flight. You'll do much better if you are moving about, learning something new or discovering places you've never been. Problems at home will surface if you choose to disagree with someone you live with. Keep the peace. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll learn a lot if you talk with people who come from different backgrounds. The information you gather will encourage you to honor your own family traditions as well as be tolerant of what others believe or how they live. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make a personal change that will make you feel good about the way you look, how you feel or the response you receive from those you

love. Keep your thoughts to yourself; it's what you do that will make a difference. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make sure you have alternative plans to offset any unexpected change that could leave you in a precarious position. Keep a close watch over what others are doing or saying to avoid being misled or pushed into something you don't want. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Participation will lead to exciting options. A social event will bring you in contact with someone who piques your interest. Romance is on the rise, and a change in the way you live or do things will head your way. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Call the shots instead of letting someone else take over. If you give someone the right to dominate the conversation or enforce rules without putting a halt on what you don't agree with, you'll have regrets. Use your intelligence and speak up. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Try something different. Visit a place you've never been, or reunite with people who took a different path than you. The experience you gain through the encounters you have will motivate you to make a personal change. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Share your feelings and ideas with someone you trust and enjoy being around. The plans that develop will give you something to look forward to and to save for. A change to your diet or lifestyle will promote better health. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An emotional situation should not be allowed to fester. Address issues before there is a change to the way you live that you weren't prepared for. Honesty and showing appreciation will help solve an existing problem. Romance is favored. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you aren't satisfied with your job or how you earn your living, check out the online job market. An advertisement will grab your attention and encourage you to beef up your resume and apply for an interview. ****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let what others do bother you. Walk away from overbearing individuals who are indulgent or trying to push their way of life on you. Focus on making physical improvements that will lift your spirits and your confidence. **

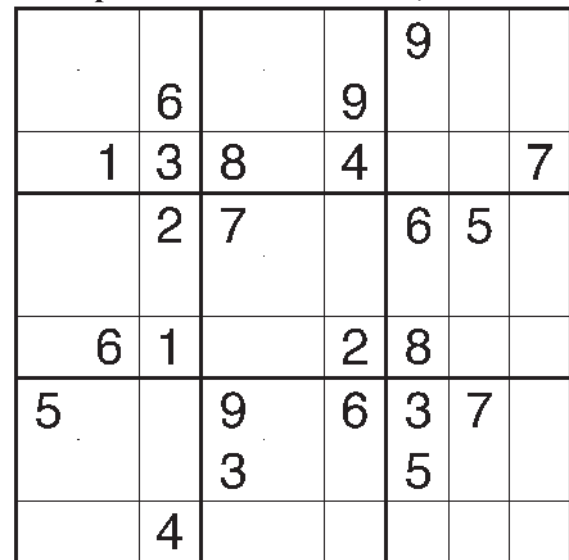
Birthday Baby: You are friendly, entertaining and outspoken. You are resourceful and ambitious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

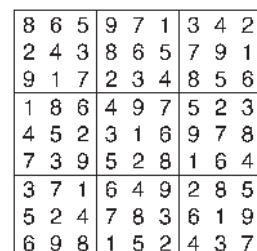
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/12

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BROOKS & DUNN

Solution: 9 letters

W P N S N I K T A R T I S T S
R O D U B O I S N O B B I G N
E T R S O N G W R I T E R S G
C Z M C E N T I R E V A S E I
O Z N H O N K Y T O N K M L A
R O H S T R A H C I E O D F P
D Y M M A R G A T A S N E T M
R V I O I L O M L A E R I A
A Y T C R I O E A L E O D T C
O R K W S C R R R E L N E L O
B T L T S I I A W E M E E N
L N S T C S G U N O R O L D C
L U O A T U X N P L O B E E
I O N A S M L L I G D N A B R
B C C O V E R S E K S A X E T

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American, Arista, Artists, Atkins, Band, Billboard, Bleed Red, Boot Scootin', Campaigns, Charts, Concert, Country, Covers, Crow, Don Cook, Dubois, Duo, Gibbons, Gill, Grammy, Honky Tonk, Kix, McEntire, Music, Neon Moon, Powell, Record, Release, Rock, Ronnie, Self-titled, Some, Songwriters, Sugarland, Texas, Tim, Vocalists, Wright, ZZ Top

Yesterday's Answer: Restoration

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6483.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: A round of drinks

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune’s Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	
• 3-Liner	\$15
• 5-Liner	\$24

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today’s solution in classified section

Stanford Resort & Apartment Room For Rent in San Vicente

– Available Single & 2-Bed Room

– Laundry Room, Help Desk, Parking Lot

Please Feel Free to contact us

Tel : 235-8500 / Phone : 588-2132

Warehouse and Office For Rent in Middle Road

– Warehouse : 10,000 sqfeet

– Office : 4,000 sqfeet (1st & 2nd)

Please Feel Free to contact us

Tel : 235-1337 / Phone : 483-2391

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com •
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. Adoption of Minutes (June 18, 2019)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. CORRESPONDENCES

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Financial Affairs Committee

2. Airport Facilities Committee

3. Seaport Facilities Committee

4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

2. Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Concession

a. Scope of Concession/Determination of Procurement Process

b. Proposed Evaluation Plan

c. Resolution

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Ports Police Fitness Training Policy

2. Organizational Chart

3. Employee Policies-

a. Equal Employment Opportunity

b. Family Medical Leave Act

4. Resolution pertaining to Navy Secretary’s request for air space

5. Staff Development and Training Agreement

6. Contract and Supplemental Budget Requests:

a. Saipan Airport Commuter Access Road Paving Project

b. Saipan ATCT Renovations -A/E Design Services-Phase 2

7. Disability requirement for airlines

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

• Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation

IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

Roman T. Tudela
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors

July 11, 2019

IAM CORPORATION DBA JEJU AIR SAIPAN LOUNGE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) TOUR GUIDE

JOB DUTIES:
Describe tour points of interest to group members, and respond to questions, escort individuals, or groups to cruises, sightseeing tours or thru places of interest such as individual establishments, public buildings, and art galleries, conduct education activities for school for school children, monitor visitors activities, to ensure compliance with establishment or tour regulations and safety practices, provide directions and other pertinent information to visitors.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be high school graduate
- With at least 6 months work experience as tour guide
- With customer service-oriented person
- With good moral character
- Able to read an speak in Korean language

Salary: 9.23/hr
These job opportunities are temporary full-time position

(2) TRAVEL AGENTS

JOB DUTIES:
Plan and sell transportation and accommodations for travel agency customers, determine destination modes of transportation, travel dates, costs and accommodations required, may also described plan and arrange itineraries and sell tour packages, may assist in resolving clients travel problems.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be high school graduate
- With one-year work experience as travel agent
- With computer skills required
- Able to read and understand English and Korean language
- And can communicate with our main office in Korea

Salary: 14.84/hr to 18.00/hr
These job opportunities are temporary full-time position

Interested Applicants can email their resume to jejulounge@naver.com
Or fax to 233-3004 or can call office number 233-3004 for more information
from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

WAREHOUSE for RENT

REM LOWERBASE

Warehouse #1 Size: 5,000sq/ft with built-in office & bathroom

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 234-0609 EXT. 158, 285-1317

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Are you tired of high priced cable TV? How about free? Ask me how! Plus, offers a very lucrative pay plan. We are international. <http://infiniteincome.net>. Questions, call Dixie 214 735 3727.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

RFP19-CHCC/CGC-016

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 29, 2019

TIME: 2:00 PM

“DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM”

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

*Mandatory bidders meeting on July 03, 2019 @ 11:00 am, Saipan time @ CHCC Conference Room #3.

*Off-island vendors, please email Subroto Banerji @ Subroto.banerji@dph.gov.mp for a Zoom link.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ SUBROTO BANERJI
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: (1) BEAUTICIAN

Job Description: Provide beauty services, such as shampooing, cutting, coloring, and styling hair, and massaging and treating scalp. May apply makeup, dress wigs, perform hair removal, and provide nail and skin care services.

Minimum Qualifications: Must be at least High School graduate; With at least 24 months of relevant work experience as a beautician; and Must know details of hair care and treatment; make up and; nail and skin care services; and other aspects of beauty enhancement.

Job Site: Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

How to Apply: Submit or mail applications, Resume, and credentials to:

MERLE C. HUDKINS
President
AFH, INC. dba NATURAL NAIL SPA
Office Address: Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 503220, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: mhudkins@pticom.com
Telephone Numbers: (670) 233-6245; (670) 989-7975

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper for more news, value and information.

SUBSCRIBING MEANS MORE

Please call 235-NEWS

HANA TOUR SERVICE INC.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) TOUR GUIDE

JOB DUTIES:
Describe tour points of interest to group members, and respond to questions, escort individuals, or groups to cruises, sightseeing tours or thru places of interest such as individual establishments, public buildings, and art galleries, conduct education activities for school for school children, monitor visitors activities, to ensure compliance with establishment or tour regulations and safety practices, provide directions and other pertinent information to visitors.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be high school graduate
- With at least 6 months’ work experience as tour guide
- With customer service-oriented person
- With good moral character
- Able to read an speak in Korean language

Salary: 9.23/hr
These job opportunities are temporary full-time position

(10) OPENINGS FOR TRAVEL AGENTS

JOB DUTIES:
Plan and sell transportation and accommodations for travel agency customers, determine destination modes of transportation, travel dates, costs and accommodations required, may also described plan and arrange itineraries and sell tour packages, may assist in resolving clients travel problems.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be high school graduate
- With one-year work experience as travel agent
- With computer skills required
- Able to read and understand English and Korean language
- And can communicate with our main office in Korea

Salary: 14.84/hr to 18.00/hr

(1) ACCOUNTANT

JOB DUTIES:
Analyze financial information and prepare financial reports to determine or maintain record of assets, liabilities, profit and loss, tax liability or other financial activities within the organization

REQUIREMENTS:
Must be college graduate with bachelor’s degree in Accounting, with work experience of at least 2 yrs or 24 months required and willing to work flexible time
Salary: 12.08 /hour

Interested Applicants can email their resume to hanatoursaipan670@gmail.com
Or fax to 234-3012 or can call office number 234-3011 for more information
from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

HANA TOUR SERVICE INC.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(14) TOUR GUIDES
JOB DUTIES:
Describe tour points of interest to group members, and respond to questions, escort individuals, or groups to cruises, sightseeing tours or thru places of interest such as individual establishments, public buildings, and art galleries, conduct education activities for school for school children, monitor visitors activities, to ensure compliance with establishment or tour regulations and safety practices, provide directions and other pertinent information to visitors.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be high school graduate
- With at least 6 months' work experience as tour guide
- With customer service-oriented person
- With good moral character
- Able to read and speak in Korean language

Salary: 9.23/hr
These job opportunities are temporary full-time position

Interested Applicants can email their resume to hanatoursaipan670@gmail.com
Or fax to 234-3012 or can call office number 234-3011 for more information
from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

TWO HONG CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) CHEF COOK
JOB DUTIES:
Direct and may participate in the preparation, seasoning cooking of salads, soup, fish, meats vegetables, desserts and other foods, may plan and price menu items, order supplies and keep records and accounts, monitor sanitation practices to ensure that employees follow standards and regulations, check the quality of raw or cooked food products to ensure that standards are met, estimate amounts and costs of required supplies such as food and ingredients, instruct cooks or other workers in the preparation, cooking, garnishing or preparation of food, supervise or coordinate activities of cooks or workers engaged in food preparation

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be high school graduate
- With work experience as chef cook in Korean Menus
- With good moral character and can work flexible time

Salary: 14.14/hr
This job opportunity is a temporary full-time position

(2) WAITRESS/WAITER
JOB DUTIES:
Take orders from patrons for food and beverages, check with customers to ensure that that they are enjoying their meals and take actions to correct any problems, check patrons identification to ensure that they meet minimum age requirements for consumption of alcoholic beverages, collects payments from customers, write patrons food orders on order slips, memorize orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be high school graduate
- With work experience as waitress
- With good moral character and can work flexible time

Salary: 8.28/hr
This job opportunity is a temporary full-time position

This job opportunity is a temporary full-time position
Interested Applicants can email their resume to iteunteun@gmail.com or can call office number 233-1515 for more information from Monday to Friday between the hours of 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

B&J CORPORATION

Db a Dive Y2K/ Olive Style

Has an opening for

SALES MANAGER (1)

DUTIES

Direct overall operation of business related matters such as managing staff, pricing, distribution of products or service to the customers.
Analyze sales statistics gathered to determine sales and service.
Review Operation records and reports to project sales and determine profitability.
Determine price schedules and discount rates.

QUALIFICATIONS

- High School Graduate with 4 years related experience.
- At least 4 years related experience
- Excellent written and oral communications skills in Korean/English preferred.
- Good customer relation skills
- Knowledge in clothing trends is required.
- Strong sales background required.
- Police clearance required.
- Previous employment certificate required.
- Requirements will be equally applied to both US workers and CW-1 Workers.

SALARY: \$13.92/HOUR

Interested applicants Send resume to BnJcorp2019@gmail.com or call 1-670-233-6322 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm except holidays)

This is a temporary full time position.

Wireless Ridge Landscaping

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(1) NURSERY WORKER
Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Take care of nursery plants, including propagation and maintenance, proper storage and use fertilizer, and proper storage and application of insecticides. Experience with propagation and care of orchids highly desirable, as well as experience with tropical plants and general nursery related duties. Minimum qualifications: 3 months of related work experience, with a high school or GED diploma.

All positions close 5:00pm on Monday, July 29, 2019.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume. It should also include a valid Police Clearance no more than 6 months old. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Wireless Ridge Landscaping is an equal opportunity employer.

RAINBOW CORPORATION

Has an opening for

COOK

Job duties:

- Plans and select Restaurant Menu.
- Shop and Order all Material and Supply needed for the Restaurant.
- Manage costing of Menu Items.
- Cooks and prepares customers order based on the menu.
- Analyze recipes to assign prices to menu items, based on food, labor and overhead costs.
- Arrange for equipment purchases or repairs.
- Check the quality of raw or cooked food products to ensure that standards are met.
- Check the quantity and quality of received products.
- Collaborate with management to plan and develop recipes or menus, taking into account such factors as seasonal availability of ingredients or the likely number of customers.

Requirements:

- Vast knowledge in Japanese cuisine
- Knowledge in different Japanese spices and ingredients.
- Must be able to read, write and speak Japanese.
- 24 months work related experience.
- Police Clearance required

Salary: \$14.40-15.50 per hour

Interested applicants Send resume to limsoffice@yahoo.com or call 1-670-234-1667 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm except holidays)

This is a temporary full time position.

B&J CORPORATION

Db a Dive Y2K/ Olive Style

Has an opening for

SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR (1)

DUTIES

To do scuba diving tours, training underwater scuba diving, teach driving to individuals or groups,
Explains and demonstrates use of apparatus and equipment.
Operates and maintain high pressure compressor for fill-up of scuba tanks.
Explains safety guidelines and procedures to customers.
Clean and check Scuba Diving gears and apparatus equipment for any defect or break.
Does other related jobs.

REQUIREMENTS

- Two years related experience.
- At least High School Graduate
- Must possess a valid Scuba Diving Instructor license from NAUI or PADI
- Must be willing to work with flexible schedule
- Must be able to speak, read and write the Korean language for better communications with Korean tourist customer.

SALARY: \$11.70/HOUR

Interested applicants Send resume to BnJcorp2019@gmail.com or call 1-670-233-6322 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm except holidays)

This is a temporary full time position.

Wireless Ridge Landscaping

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

3) LANDSCAPING AND GROUNDSKEEPING WORKERS
Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Also performs grounds keeping duties and other related duties as assigned. Minimum qualifications: 3-12 months of related work experience, with a high school or GED diploma.

All positions close 5:00pm on Tuesday, July 30, 2019.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume. It should also include a valid Police Clearance no more than 6 months old. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Wireless Ridge Landscaping is an equal opportunity employer.

RAINBOW CORPORATION

Has an opening for

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Job duties;

- Observe Staff performance to on to assure conformance with company standards.
- Develop or implement product-marketing strategies, including advertising campaigns or sales promotions.
- Direct administrative activities directly related to making products or providing services.
- Direct and coordinate activities of business.
- Direct non-merchandising departments of business, such as advertising or purchasing.
- Direct or coordinate financial or budget activities to fund operations or increase efficiency.
- Coordinates with other Tour Agencies who handles incoming Korean Tourist customers.
- Assist in arranging & coordinating activities of Tour companies engaged in conducting marine & land tour activities for Korean tourists, observe agent performance on tours to assure conformance with standards.
- Prepares reports on tour activities, correspond with tour operators in Korea, prepare exit & arrival schedules, must be able to formulate, organize & execute attractive & competitive tour package in Korean to be sold in Korea
- Act as liaison between tour agents and company and resolves any problems if any arises.
- Must know system knowledge in computer and perform other duties as required

Requirements:

- High School Graduate with 4 years related experience or College graduate
- 4 Years experience in a tour or travel industry,
- Must have computer skill for input of daily sales, handling reservations and corresponding with other agents.
- Must be able to read, write and speak Korean.
- Police clearance required will be equally applied both to US workers and CW-1 Workers.
- Proof of Previous employment is required.

Salary: \$17.23 per hour

Interested applicants Send resume to limsoffice@yahoo.com or call 1-670-234-1667 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm except holidays)

This is a temporary full time position.

B&J CORPORATION

Db a Dive Y2K/ Olive Style

Has an opening for

RESERVATIONS SALES AGENT (1)

DUTIES

- Make arrangement and accept reservations from Hotel/Tour Agency and Walk in Customers.
- Make daily schedule for Dive arrangements and schedules.
- Explain Diving Tour packages to tourist customers.
- Make Daily Sales report and record receipt of payments from customers.

REQUIREMENTS

- At least High School Graduate
- Must be knowledgeable in computer programs (Excel, Word and Online Reservations System)
- At least 3 year related experience in travel/tourism industry.
- Knowledge in Scuba Diving activities is a plus.
- Police Clearance required.
- Prior work experience certificate required.
- Police clearance and previous employment certificate will be equally applied to both U.S. Workers and CW-1 Workers.

SALARY: \$8.54/HOUR

Interested applicants Send resume to BnJcorp2019@gmail.com or call 1-670-233-6322 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm except holidays)

This is a temporary full time position.

Thunder, Heat discuss deal on Westbrook trade



It appears as though Russell Westbrook could be on his way out of Oklahoma City.

After reportedly meeting with Westbrook and his agent, the Thunder are now receptive to trade calls for the former MVP. While the Thunder may be open to moving Westbrook, the timing is tough at this point in the summer due to salaries being frozen across the NBA from free-agent deals.

ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski reported that Westbrook would be open to playing for the Miami Heat, who are one of the teams with interest in pursuing a deal. According to reports, the two sides have had preliminary talks. Not much is known about the details, but the Heat are reluctant to include Bam Adebayo or Tyler Herro.

Due to his inflated annual salary and aggressive style of play, not every team would be interested in acquiring Westbrook, but he would have some other suitors.

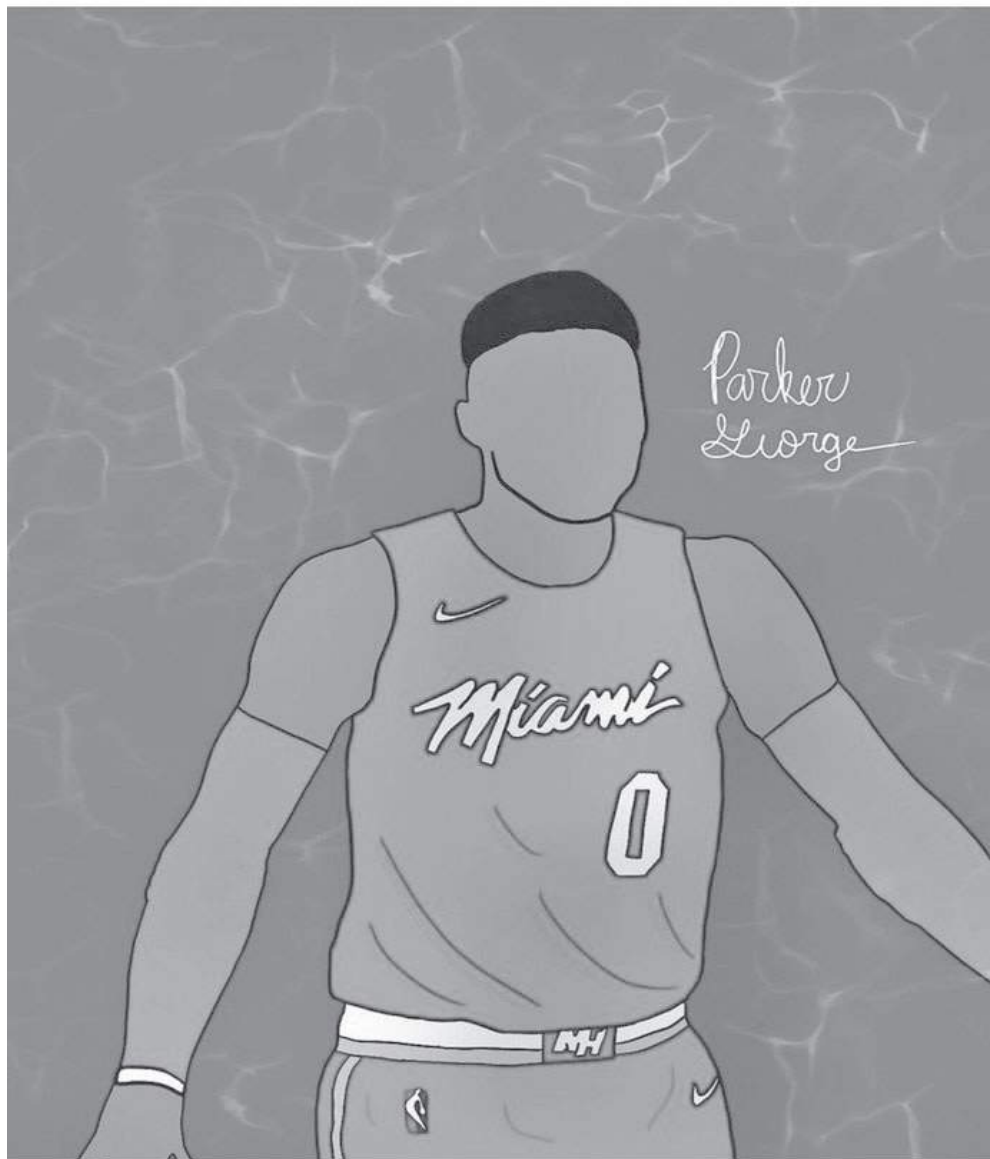
The Detroit Pistons and Houston Rockets would also potentially be interested in adding Westbrook via trade.

On Wednesday, the Oklahoma City Thunder star liked an Instagram photo depicting him in a Heat uniform. Westbrook has averaged a triple-double in each of the past three seasons, posting 22.9 points, 11.1 rebounds and 10.7 assists per game in the 2018-19.

The Thunder shocked the NBA world when they traded



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Russell Westbrook's latest social media activity shows how he wants to go to Miami Heat.

Paul George to the Los Angeles Clippers. There was another scenario where George could have been on his way to Toronto to team up with Kawhi Leonard.

The Thunder ended up trading George to the Clippers in exchange for Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Danilo Gallinari, four unprotected first-round picks, one protected first-round pick and two pick swaps.

Following George's departure, it seems like a rebuild would be the best path forward for the Thunder, so it isn't especially surprising that the Thunder are entertaining trade talks for their star guard.

The Thunder do have a solid group to build around with Steven Adams, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Danilo Gallinari in addition to a bulk of first-round picks. Now Presti will have the tough task of gaining maximum value in exchange for Westbrook.

Meanwhile, the Dallas Mavericks have signed Seth Curry to complete the guard's return after a year away and re-signed one of their restricted free agents in forward Maxi Kleber.

Curry signed a \$32 million, four-year contract after spending one season with Portland. Kleber is returning on a \$35 million, four-year deal.

Stephen Curry's younger

brother had the best year of his career with the Mavericks in 2016-17, averaging 12.8 points, 2.7 assists and 29 minutes per game. The 28-year-old Curry missed all of 2017-18 with a stress reaction in his lower left leg before averaging 7.9 points with the Trail Blazers last season.

Kleber's return means Dallas will have a German on its roster for a 22nd consecutive season. Dirk Nowitzki retired in April after setting an NBA record by playing 21 seasons with the same franchise. Both were born in Wurzburg, German.

The 27-year-old Kleber spent his first two NBA seasons with the Mavericks, averaging 6.1 points and 3.9 rebounds.

In other reports, as soon as the Grizzlies acquired him, it appeared Andre Iguodala wouldn't be long for Memphis.

The Grizzlies' primary impetus for the trade seemed to be a first-round pick from the Warriors, who were desperate to stay under the hard cap triggered by acquiring D'Angelo Russell in a sign-and-trade. The Grizzlies are in the early stages of rebuilding around Ja Morant and Jaren Jackson Jr. Iguodala is a still-helpful player nearing the end of his career. Their timelines just don't overlap.

Dallas is among the teams interested in Iguodala. What would the Mavericks offer? They're reportedly interested in swapping the expiring contracts of Courtney Lee (\$12,759,670) and Iguodala (\$17,185,185).

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Paul George and Kawhi Leonard are now officially with the Los Angeles Clippers, moves that bring both of them back to their native Southern California.

It might not be forever: Both can become free agents in only two years.

The Clippers completed their blockbuster trade with the Oklahoma City Thunder on Wednesday, acquiring George for guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, forward Danilo Gallinari and five first-round draft picks—along with the chance to swap draft places in two other years.

"Paul George is one of the greatest two-way players in our game," Clippers President Lawrence Frank said. "He is both an elite scorer and a relentless defender whose versatility elevates any team. When you have the opportunity to acquire a contributor of his caliber, you do what it takes to bring him home."

George can become a free agent again in 2021 if he

Leonard, George officially join LA Clippers

chooses to exercise that option, and Leonard will be in the same situation as well. A person with knowledge of the situation said that the deal Leonard signed Wednesday is a three-year max that could be worth nearly \$110 million, though the third season is at Leonard's option. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Clippers did not release contract terms.

The Athletic first reported the three-year term and option provision in Leonard's deal. When Leonard decided that he was leaving Toronto for the Clippers last week, he and the team had talked about a four-year max worth \$141 million—but this move, which would make Leonard a free agent after his 10th season, gives him the maximum amounts of flexibility and future earning power.

"This is a historic moment for our organization and our

fans," Frank said. "We are grateful and honored that Kawhi Leonard has decided to come home and join the L.A. Clippers. Kawhi is a peerless two-way player, a relentless worker and a natural fit for the serious, professional culture our group has established."

Another major deal got completed Wednesday: Klay Thompson, who will miss part of next season while recovering from a torn ACL, signed his five-year deal to stay with Golden State for nearly \$190 million — the largest free-agent one agreed to this summer. Portland's Damian Lillard signed a \$196 million extension that begins in two years, but he wasn't a free agent. The Warriors also waived Shaun Livingston, who was part of all five of their NBA Finals teams over the last five seasons.

"He has been a tremendous credit to the Warriors organi-

zation and our community for the last five years," Warriors co-chairman and CEO Joe Lacob said of Livingston.

Leonard will cost the Clippers a lot of money.

George is costing them a lot of money and a lot of picks.

The Clippers surrendered their first-round picks in 2022, 2024 and 2026, plus sent ones for 2021 and 2023 that were obtained through Miami, to Oklahoma City to complete the George trade. Oklahoma City also has the right to swap first-round picks with the Clippers in 2023 and 2025.

"From the time that Paul and his representation made us aware of what had been transpiring and their subsequent request, our focus as an organization was identifying the best paths for our future," Thunder general manager Sam Presti said. "Resiliency has been a staple of our city and our franchise, and this challenge

provided us with another opportunity to demonstrate that."

The Thunder also now have a \$10.4 million trade exception.

"Our goal with this transaction was to create value both in the short and long term and help reposition and replenish the organization's future platform," Presti said. "We are thrilled to welcome two extremely talented and efficient players in Shai and Danilo."

It's unclear if Presti is done making big moves this summer. The Thunder has engaged teams in conversations about the possibility of trading All-Star point guard Russell Westbrook, a person familiar with that situation told the AP. Miami is one of the teams that has been part of those talks, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the Thunder have not revealed specific details.

Presti said he wished George well.

"We are proud that Paul is a part of our history as an organization and that some of the best basketball of his career was in Oklahoma City," Presti said. "He should be remembered fondly; we wish him and his family the best."

George averaged a career-best 28 points last season even while dealing with shoulder issues that required surgery, and the Thunder couldn't get out of the first round in either of his two seasons in OKC. George was a finalist for both NBA MVP and Defensive Player of the Year this past season, when he led the league with 2.21 steals per contest.

Leonard is also coming off the best season of his career. Leonard averaged a career-high 26.6 points in the regular season and was even better in the playoffs, averaging 30.5 points for the Raptors in their run to the title. He won NBA Finals MVP honors for the second time, adding this one to the one he got as a member of the San Antonio Spurs in 2014.

Nadal vs Federer in Wimbledon semifinals

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—All these years later, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal will meet again at Wimbledon for the 40th installment of their terrific rivalry — and first at the All England Club since their memorable 2008 final.

“Such a long time,” Nadal said.

They moved on to the semi-final showdown everyone’s been thinking about since the tournament draw by each overcoming a tough opening set Wednesday.

A 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Kei Nishikori gave the No. 2-seeded Federer his 100th match win at the All England Club, the first man to reach that total at any Grand Slam tournament. Not long after that ended on Centre Court, the No. 3-seeded Nadal finished off Sam Querrey 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 at No. 1 Court.

Friday’s other semifinal will draw far less attention: No. 1 Novak Djokovic, the defending champion, against No. 23 Roberto Bautista Agut, never before this far at a major.

Looking ahead to what comes next for himself, Federer said: “Obviously, I know people always hype it up.”

Well, why shouldn’t they? These are, after all, two of the greatest players in tennis’ long history, winners of more Grand Slam titles than any other men. Of Federer’s 20, a record eight came at Wimbledon. Of Nadal’s 18, 12 came at the French Open, where he routed Federer in the semifinals last month.

That gave Nadal a 24-15 career edge head-to-head, including 10-3 at the Slams.

But that one was on the red clay Nadal rules. This one is on Federer’s territory: grass.

This is their fourth matchup at Wimbledon—and first that won’t come in the final. Federer beat Nadal for the 2006 and 2007 titles, but Nadal won the championship 11 years ago in a 9-7 fifth set as dusk descended.

“Well, we have a lot of information on Rafa, and so does he about us,” Federer said. “So you can either dive into tactics and all that stuff like mad for two days — or you’re just going to say: ‘You know what? It’s grass-court tennis and I’m going to come out there and play attacking tennis.’ And if he can defend that, that’s too good. And if he can’t, well, then, that’s good for me.”

It is the 13th time that the Big Three of Federer, Nadal and Djokovic are in the semifinals at a major tournament together. On 11 of the previous occasions, one of them claimed the title.

There were some shaky moments for each Wednesday.



“The beginning,” Federer said, “was brutal.”

The eighth-seeded Nishikori jumped out to an early edge by breaking in the very first game, enough to give him

that set.

But Federer quickly turned things around in the second, conjuring up whatever he wanted, exactly when

he wanted it.

His approach shots were beyond reproach. His volleys vibrant. His returns were timed so well, and struck so

violently, that one knocked the net-rushing Nishikori’s racket plum out of his hands.

And Federer’s serve? Sure, he faced break points, but he never allowed 2014 U.S.



If experience matters, Serena has big edge

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—One of the Wimbledon semifinalists has won 23 major titles. The other three women playing Thursday have combined to win one.

If experience and accomplishments count for anything, Serena Williams has the clear advantage.

“I definitely feel a lot more pressure as I got older,” Williams said after beating Alison Riske in three sets in the quarterfinals, then clarifying just how much experience she actually has. “Now that I am past older, I feel a little bit less pressure.”

The 37-year-old Williams, a seven-time Wimbledon champion, will be playing in the semifinals at the All England Club for the 12th time. Overall, she has reached the last four at 37 major tournaments, putting her in a tie with Steffi Graf for third most in the professional era.

Contrast that with her three remaining rivals. Barbora Strycova, Williams’ opponent on Thursday, will be playing in first major semifinal in her 53rd Grand Slam tournament,

while Elina Svitolina will also be making her debut at this stage. Only former No. 1 Simona Halep has been a Grand Slam champion, winning last year’s French Open, and will be playing in her seventh major semifinal.

“It was always my dream. Always, to play good at this tournament was my dream,” said the 33-year-old Strycova, a Czech player who has been talking about retiring this year. “It’s happening at this age right now. It’s incredible.”

Despite her less-illustrious list of achievements, Strycova is ready for the challenge of playing one of the greatest tennis players in history.

“I don’t have fear. I just will go there Thursday and I will try to play my game,” Strycova said. “Of course, I don’t have such a power like Serena, but I have (other) weapons. I will try to use them as much as I can. I will enjoy. I have really at this point nothing to lose.”

Williams doesn’t really have anything to lose, either, but she has plenty to gain. The American superstar has

been trying to equal the all-time record of Grand Slam singles titles of 24, but twice lost in finals last year.

One of those losses came at Wimbledon. The other, at the U.S. Open, was accompanied by a dramatic final set in which Williams was given three code violations. The second cost her a point, and the third cost her a game.

Naomi Osaka went on to the win that title in New York, and Williams had an article published in Harper’s Bazaar magazine on Tuesday saying she has apologized to Osaka for her actions on the court—in part to find a way to move on from the episode and get back to tennis.

Coco comeback

After her memorable Wimbledon ended, Coco Gauff already was thinking about coming back.

“Obviously, there’s always room for improvement,” Gauff said.

“I’m going to go and practice and improve some things,” the 15-year-old Floridian added, raising her eye-

Spain’s Rafael Nadal returns to United States’ Sam Querrey during a men’s quarterfinal match on Day 9 of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Wednesday, July 10, 2019.

Open runner-up Nishikori to convert another.

“Overall, I’m just very happy how I’m hitting the ball,” Federer said. “Feel good off the baseline, too, which is clearly going to be important, maybe, for the next match.”

Yeah, maybe.

Nadal, of course, is still a ball-retrieving, shot-whipping machine at the back of the court.

He did have some trouble closing out the first set against Querrey, an American ranked 65th who was trying to reach his second Wimbledon semifinal.

Nadal wasted three set points at 5-3, then another before getting broken when serving for it at 5-4. Again serving for that set at 6-5, he erased a trio of break points for Querrey before holding—and finally was on his way.

“I definitely think he’s a guy that can win it again,” Querrey said about two-time Wimbledon champ Nadal.

Djokovic, eyeing a fifth trophy at the All England Club and 16th overall at Slams, used a 10-game run to transform what was shaping up as an even, entertaining quarterfinal into a 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 romp against 21st-seeded David Goffin.

“I felt,” Djokovic said, “like I managed to dismantle his game.”

Down an early break, the defending champion grabbed control midway through the opening set and never let go.

“He was everywhere,” Goffin said.

Djokovic did to Goffin exactly what he does to so many men on so many surfaces and at so many tournaments: He takes their best shot, deals with it and then wears them down.

“I sincerely hope,” Djokovic said, “that my opponent feels like he’s got to work twice as (hard as) against any other opponent to win a point.”

Bautista Agut, a first-time Grand Slam semifinalist, is supposed to be on the island of Ibiza right now, having a bachelor party with a half-dozen pals ahead of his November wedding. Instead, he will play on after beating No. 26 Guido Pella of Argentina 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

“Well,” the 31-year-old Bautista Agut said, “it feels better to be here in London.”

Federer and Nadal are surely pleased to still be around, too.

Everyone else will be thrilled to see them trade strokes on Centre Court once more.

Trade deadline looms as baseball resumes after All-Star Game



CHICAGO
(AP)—Fran-

cisco Lindor and the Cleveland Indians, looking up at Nelson Cruz and the surprising Minnesota Twins. Matt Chapman and the Oakland Athletics, trying to run down José Altuve and the Houston Astros. Max Scherzer and the Washington Nationals, chasing Ronald Acuña Jr. and the Atlanta Braves.

Baseball ramps up again this weekend, and a handful of contenders have a lot of work to do.

Five of the majors' six divisions feature deficits of at least 5½ games as play resumes after the All-Star Game, in which the American League beat the National League 4-3 Tuesday night. Life is pretty good for two iconic franchises, with Cody Bellinger and the Los Angeles Dodgers in control of the NL West again and Aaron Judge and the New York Yankees looking down on the rest of the AL East despite a rash of injuries.

"This team is capable of some great things," Yankees pitcher James Paxton said. "You've got some really talented players here, guys with a lot of drive, great leadership. We're set up really well to make a good run the second half here as well."

The one exception at the moment is the crazy NL Central, where the Chicago Cubs have a 4½-game advantage—over last-place Cincinnati. Yup, that's right, it's just 4½ games from top to bottom, with Christian Yelich and Milwaukee a half-game back of Javier Báez and the inconsistent Cubs.

"Nobody really wants to run away with it," Cardinals shortstop Paul DeJong said. "That gives us confidence as



a group to think that we can run away with it."

It sets up for some very tough decisions ahead of the trade deadline after trade waivers were eliminated in the offseason, meaning no player can be traded after July 31 through the end of the regular season. Players who clear outright waivers can still be claimed and will be eligible for the postseason if they are in the organization

before Sept. 1.

Buying or selling will be one tricky call for several teams, all the way to the final days of July. The hard deadline also could affect the prices for some of the top players on the market, possibilities like San Francisco pitchers Madison Bumgarner and Will Smith, Toronto right-hander Marcus Stroman and Detroit lefty Matthew Boyd.

"I know something could

happen, but I don't take a peek at what people are saying," Smith said. "There's so much out there, and you don't know what's true."

Cleveland could inject some drama into the AL Central as soon as this weekend, when Minnesota comes to town for a three-game series. The Indians hit the All-Star break with the majors' longest active win streak at six in a row, improving to 21-6 since June 1 and

moving within 5½ games of the division-leading Twins.

"In the beginning it seemed like we were good, then all of a sudden in May we had that stretch where we weren't playing as good as we wanted to play," Lindor said. "But right now, we continue to play the game right and we're enjoying it, we're all having fun. We all get along, we love each other, we back each other up. We're having a blast."

AP
American League's George Springer of the Houston Astros singles during the first inning of the MLB baseball All-Star Game against the National League, Tuesday, July 9, 2019, in Cleveland.

Washington also is having some fun again, moving into position to shake up the NL East after a terrible start to the season. Led by a resurgent Scherzer, the Nationals have won 15 of 19 to pull within six games of the division-leading Braves.

Washington plays Atlanta 14 times in the last half of the season, including seven games in July.

"When we can go out there and play our best baseball and play mistake-free baseball, we're a tough team and we can compete with anybody in this league," Scherzer said.

The Nationals have seven players with at least 11 homers, led by Anthony Rendon with 20. But everyone is going deep these days.

Beginning with Thursday night's Astros-Rangers game in Arlington, the game's top sluggers resume their assault on an array of home run records. Yelich leads the way with 31 so far, putting together an appropriate encore to his NL MVP performance a year ago.

The majors are on pace for 6,668 homers, which would smash the record 6,105 hit in 2017, and the real heat of the summer, when hits pick up, is only just beginning.

"Guys are working year in and year out on their swings," Pittsburgh first baseman Josh Bell said during the All-Star break. "We're just focused on trying to put a show on for you guys."

The show is on once again.

First the players, now the ball. Home runs are skyrocketing, and once again Major League Baseball officials claim they don't know the reason why.

Then again, it might be that they're just not looking hard enough.

Unlike the players, the ball still looks the same. Commissioner Rob Manfred said it tests much the same as before, too, though he conceded there might be less drag on the ball than there was in the past.

So why are batters teeing off at a rate nearing three home runs a game, a 19 percent increase from a year before? Why are hitters on a pace to hit 1,000 more home runs than the Steroids Era high mark of 5,693 in 2000?

Good question, Manfred says, but it's not because anyone juiced the ball.

Column: MLB has issues beyond a juiced ball

"Manipulation of the baseball is a great conspiracy theory," Manfred said Tuesday at the All-Star Game in Cleveland. "How you manipulate a human-dominated handmade manufacturing process in any consistent way, it's a smarter human being than I."

Don't tell that to pitchers like Justin Verlander, who say they can tell something is different just by how the ball feels in their hands. He and a few other outspoken pitchers believe the ball has been changed, no matter how much MLB protests otherwise.

And in a game defined by numbers, the home run numbers certainly suggest the same thing.

If you enjoyed the Home Run Derby the other night,

you'll enjoy this MLB season. Every night is Home Run Derby, it seems, as balls fly out of stadiums like they were propelled by rocket fuel.

And the suspicion, after years of being on the players, has now fallen on the ball.

It's an easy target, even if other factors are also contributing to the surge in long balls. Put together they're giving baseball a problem in the way the game itself is played.

Batters no longer fear strike outs or low averages. They're concerned with uppercut swings and launch angles, and don't worry about protecting the plate with two strikes.

Pitchers, meanwhile, throw harder than ever, and are rewarded with more strikeouts than ever. The flip side is the

balls that batters do make contact with tend to fly further than they have before.

Almost everyone tries to hit it deep, no matter the situation. There are no hit-and-runs, no hitting behind the runner, and the bunt is on the disappearing list.

And, let's face it, there are still juiced players in Major League Baseball. If anyone doubts that steroids are still not an issue in baseball, look no further than the starting shortstop for the American League All-Star team, Jorge Polanco, who sat out half of last season after being caught taking the steroid Stanozolol.

So it's not just the ball, which Manfred says has been studied extensively by experts who find no difference

other than a decrease in the amount of drag in flight. A lot has to do with the way the game is being played in the analytics era, and the players themselves who seem to get stronger every year.

Still changing the ball might be the easiest way to change the perception, at least, that home runs are killing baseball.

"We just haven't made a decision on that," Manfred said. "Changing the baseball is a mechanism by which you could manage the way the game is being played. We haven't missed that idea. But if we were going to do it, we would do it in a way that was transparent to the media and the fans in advance."

Manfred has a difficult bal-

ancing act in a sport that over the years has proven resistant to change. And we're just getting to the point where it's obvious to any casual fan that the game is different in its current form—and not in a good way.

Baseball resumes in earnest Friday with a lot of issues. Attendance is down for the second straight year, dropping nearly 500 fans a game after being down 4 percent the year before, while the All-Star Game drew its lowest rating ever on TV.

Meanwhile, only one division has a heated race, games seem to take forever, and the cost of taking a family of four to the ballpark is prohibitive.

Yes, the ball is part of the problem. So many more of them are going over fences than before that it has to be.

But fixing the ball won't fix everything that ails the game.

Fans celebrate World Cup champs, rally for equal pay

NEW YORK (AP)—Adoring fans packed New York City's Canyon of Heroes on Wednesday amid a blizzard of confetti to praise the World Cup-winning U.S. women's national soccer team as leaders on the field and advocates for pay equity off it.

Crowds chanted "USA! USA!" and workers sounded air horns from a construction site as the hourlong parade moved up a stretch of lower Broadway that has long hosted so-called ticker tape parades for world leaders, veterans and hometown sports stars.

Co-captain Megan Rapinoe and her teammates shared a float with Mayor Bill de Blasio and U.S. Soccer Federation President Carlos Cordeiro. Rapinoe struck her now-famous victory pose, took a swig of Champagne and handed the bottle to a fan. Goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher held the World Cup trophy aloft.

Aly Hoover, 12, of Glen Ridge, New Jersey, stood at



the sidelines with a poster of the face of Alex Morgan, another team star. "I just want to

be like them," she said.

Garret Prather brought his newborn son "to celebrate how the American women made us proud on and off the field."

The team sealed its second consecutive tournament win by beating the Netherlands 2-0 on Sunday. It will get \$4 million for winning the World Cup from FIFA, the international soccer governing body. The men's French team got \$38 million for winning last year.

The U.S. women's team has sued the U.S. Soccer Federation for gender and pay discrimination. The federation will give the women bonuses

about five times smaller than what the men would have earned for winning the World Cup. The case is currently in mediation.

Kate Lane, who watched the parade, called the pay gap "massive" for the soccer players and "across the board" for most women.

"Especially in male-dominated professions," said Lane, of Limerick, Ireland. "Women put just as much commitment into their work as their male counterparts."

She's hopeful the younger generation is soaking up the message from the women's team, noting a girl about

7 years old wearing an "Equal Pay" T-shirt.

Earlier Wednesday, team members joined New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, as he signed a bill that expands gender pay equality in the state. He said women's soccer players should be paid the same as male players.

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, a Democrat, introduced a bill Tuesday that would bar federal funding for the men's 2026 World Cup until the U.S. Soccer Federation provides equal pay to the women's and men's teams.

The U.S. women's soccer team celebrates with a parade along the Canyon of Heroes, Wednesday, July 10, 2019, in New York. The U.S. national team beat the Netherlands, 2-0, to capture a record fourth Women's World Cup title.

At a City Hall rally after the parade, the presidential candidate de Blasio, also a Democrat, honored the team with symbolic keys to the city, saying it "brought us together" and "showed us so much to make us hopeful."

After chants for "Equal pay!" from the crowd, Cordeiro said women "deserve fair and equitable pay. And together I believe we can get this done."

At the rally, Rapinoe noted the diversity of the team: "We have pink hair and purple hair, we have tattoos and dreadlocks, we got white girls and black girls and everything in between. Straight girls and gay girls."

The parade is named for the strands of ticker tape that used to be showered down from nearby office buildings. The tape has since been replaced with paper confetti, which drifted down from office buildings throughout Wednesday's parade, along with documents and spreadsheets folded into paper airplanes.

The Department of Sanitation said it has assigned 350 workers to parade cleanup, with trucks, backpack blowers and brooms at their disposal.

BEARS

From Page 32

the fifth. At the bottom of the sixth, another two-run double from Tenorio kept the Mariners' in the game, before the shortstop was beaten to third on a rundown play for the last out. Then in the seventh and last inning, the Bears also had a 1-2-3 on the Mariners with leadoff batter Pat Tenorio out at second after making a single and Nate Camacho and Eli Aughenbaugh following suit on a double play,

DECISION

From Page 32

Meanwhile, the host of the 2025 Pacific Mini Games will also be decided in this Sunday's assembly. The competition is between Palau and American Samoa. Also on the agenda of this Sunday's event are the associate membership application of Australia and New Zealand, review of Week 1 of the XVI Pacific Games, and updates on the Solomon Islands' preparations for the hosting of the 2023 Pacific Games.

ALL

From Page 32

nally set for yesterday, but was rescheduled along with the Papua New Guinea-Samoa tiff due to rain.

The CNMI is the lone seeded team still in contention for the medals in the men's team event. The No. 4 seed Commonwealth crew entered the semis after sweeping the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Nauru in the Group D matches and holding a 9-0 record. Tahiti defeated New Caledonia and No. 1 seed Vanuatu in Group A and had a 4-2 mark, making the CNMI the slight favorite in the matchup.

A victory over Tahiti would ensure the Commonwealth at least a silver medal.

Meanwhile, the CNMI ended its campaign in the women's division on a strong note after shutting down the Cook Islands yesterday at the Apia Park Tennis Courts.

Carol Lee dominated Tamara Anderson in the first singles match, 6-1, 6-2, while Isabel Heras also outclassed Ruby Pierre in the second,



Carol Lee, right, poses with the umpire and the Cook Islands' Tamara Anderson before their singles game in the XVI Pacific Games at the Apia Park Tennis Court in Samoa yesterday.

6-0, 6-1. Lee and Heras then defeated the same Cook Islands players in the doubles match, 6-3, 6-4, to complete the sweep and gain momentum going into the individual singles, doubles, and mixed

doubles events in the tennis competition that will start this Sunday.

Earlier this week, Lee and company had a tough time in the pool play after losing to division favorite and

the Abigail Tere-Apisahled PNG and host Samoa. Both PNG and Samoa are seeded in the competition and are playing in the semifinals today. The No. 4 seed PNG will take on unranked American Samoa, while No. 3 Samoa will challenge No. 1 New Caledonia.

Finals stint anew for Tenorio, Watanabe

In the penultimate day of the swimming competition at the Samoa Aquatic Centre, Juhn Tenorio and Aika Watanabe both reached the finals of the 100m backstroke event.

Tenorio clocked in at 1:04.52—a personal best (unofficial), while Watanabe timed in at 1:17.49. The gold medal races were held last night, but results of the finals were unavailable at press time. Tenorio was on his third finals appearance (the two others were in the 50m backstroke and 200m backstroke), while Watanabe was in her second (the first was in the 200m backstroke).

The two finalists will have their last individual event to-

day as they both compete in the 200m individual medley. Sophia Gauran, Lennosuke Suzuki, and David Boyer will race in the same event and the 100m freestyle swim. Jinju Thompson is also entered in the 100m freestyle event and will join the 200m mixed relay.

In other results, beach volleyball's Tyce and Logan Mister finished the tournament with a 0-2 record and have been eliminated, while the CNMI Badminton Team is also done for the singles, doubles, and mixed doubles events.

Nathan Guerrero and Nicole Malasarte managed to win their first round game in the mixed doubles after slipping past Samoa's Charles Faalogoifo and Angel Reti, 21-13, 8-21, 21-15. The CNMI duo then missed a quarterfinals berth when it was defeated by Tahiti's Rauhiri Goguenheim and Hinahere Mara in the second round, 21-12, 21-15.

Andrea Galvez and Janelle Pangilinan also played in the mixed doubles and they were beaten by another Tahiti

pair—Quentin Bernaix and Esther Tau—21-16, 21-18.

In the men's doubles, No. 1 seed Ronan Ho-Yagues and Morgan Paitio of New Caledonia topped Guerrero and Jordan Pangilinan, 21-11, 21-10, while Fiji's Ahmad Ali and Martin Feussner swept Daniel and Ezekiel Macario, 21-10, 21-12. In the men's singles, Tahiti's Louis Beauvais downed Galvez, 21-4, 21-10; Goguenheim outclassed Daniel Macario, 21-7, 21-8; and Samoa's Kennedy Simani ousted Jordan Pangilinan, 21-12, 21-13. In the women's doubles, Malasarte and Pangilinan forced Mara and Ingrid Ateni to three games before the Tahiti pair pulled off a 21-22, 19-21, 21-3 victory.

V-1 long distance today

Mayiah Duenas and Jack Aahn will compete in the long distance va'a V-1 races today.

The men's and women's races will be held in the waters off Mulifanua Sheraton Beach Resort and will cover a distance of about 10 miles.



Thunder, Heat
discuss deal
on Westbrook
trade

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Nadal vs
Federer in
Wimbledon
semifinals

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32 FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

All eyes on men's tennis



LYDIA TAN
Ken Song returns to Nauru's Dallas Addi during their singles match in the XVI Pacific Games at the Apia Park Tennis Court in Samoa last Tuesday.



SAMOA PACIFIC GAMES PHOTO

Janelle Pangilinan, front, and Andreau Galvez play against Tahiti's Quentin Bernaix and Esther Tau in the mixed doubles event of the XVI Pacific Games yesterday at the Multipurpose Gymnasium of the Faleata Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With majority of CNMI athletes out of contention, the Commonwealth's medal chances in Week 1 of the XVI Pacific games now fall on the shoulders of the men's tennis team.

Colin Sinclair, Robbie Schorr, and Ken Song will be playing in the semifinals of the team event today against Tahiti, starting at 8am (5am Saipan time). The CNMI-Tahiti duel was origi-

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Decision time for CNMI's Mini Games hosting

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Pacific Games Council's general assembly will be held this Sunday in Apia, Samoa with the CNMI's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games on the table for approval.

Rep. Marco Peter (R-Saipan) will be representing CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in the weekend forum and the former has been in

discussion with Pacific Games Council executive director Andrew Minogue on issues about the Commonwealth's hosting of the quadrennial meet.

Minogue, in a message to *Saipan Tribune*, said the Council is still working with the governor and his representative to iron out details about the 2021 Mini Games.

Early this month, Torres in-



formed the PGC that the CNMI government is reaffirming its commitment to host the 2021 Pacific Games. The Commonwealth has also agreed to the proposed budget for the event—bringing it down to \$3 million from \$8 million—and the expenditure schedule that the PGC suggested.

All these concerns and the six sports in the scaled down

Mini Games will have to be addressed at the general assembly and get the rubber-stamp of the 22 member-nations.

Once the hosting gets the blessings of the stakeholders, a revised contract must be signed by the PGC, the CNMI government, and Northern Marianas Sports Association, which represents the Commonwealth to the Council.

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Back-to-back for Bears

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Chalan Kanoa Bears made it two in a row after topping the Mariners, 13-6, in their game in the 2019 Saipan Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

A nine-run top of the fifth inning allowed the Bears to break the deadlock en route to taking their second victory

in as many games after downing Go See Mark during the league's opening week.

The Bears-Mariners match was tied at 4-all after four complete innings. Anthony Tenorio hit a two-run double at the bottom of the second for the Mariners, who got their two other runs in the same inning.



The defending champions Bears, on the other hand, tallied one run at the top of the first and added three—two earned and one off a wild pitch—in the fourth inning, too.

Then at the top of the fifth, the Bears gained a cushion after capitalizing on the Mariners' miscues. Six of the

Bears' nine runs in the crucial inning came from the Mariners' errors. Virgil Sechar-midal and Henry Lizama both batted twice and scored two runs apiece, lifting the Bears to a 13-4 advantage.

The Mariners never recovered, as they were shut down in the fifth and seventh innings. The Bears got the three quick outs at the bottom of

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XVI PACIFIC GAMES MEDAL TALLY (As of 7pm/July 11)				
Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
New Caledonia	21	16	10	47
Tahiti	10	8	6	24
Fiji	9	9	14	32
Australia	9	5	6	20
Samoa	9	4	13	26
Papua New Guinea	6	10	7	23
Nauru	5	1	8	14
Kiribati	4	7	0	11
New Zealand	4	3	3	10
Solomon Islands	3	8	5	16
Norfolk Island	1	1	0	2
Vanuatu	1	0	0	1
Guam	0	6	2	8
Cook Islands	0	1	2	3
Wallis and Futuna	0	1	2	3
Niue	0	1	1	2
American Samoa	0	1	0	1
Tonga	0	0	2	2
Tokelau	0	0	1	1